

TWO SPIRIT JOY

ZINE



Indigenous Joy
around every corner



A SPRING 2025 ZINE



MEET THE COVER ARTIST

Breana Brave Heart, Mahpiya Sap Win (Black Cloud Women), is an enrolled member of the federally recognized tribe Oglala Lakota Sioux, she is also part Northern Cheyenne. Breana is from Prisoner of War Camp #334, located in Pine Ridge, SD.

Breana's pronouns are she/her and she identifies as a Two Spirit youth.

She is a direct descendent of Crazy Horse's band, is an ancestral survivor of the Wounded Knee Massacre, and the product of Boarding School Survivor. She currently attends college at the Institute of the American Indian Arts and is the Associated Student Government President. She is pursuing her bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, specializing in acrylic painting, and minoring in Business & Entrepreneurship.

Breana is an active member of the International Indigenous Youth Council- Oglala Chapter and the GSA Network- Two Spirit Initiative. She is also a model for Indigenous fashion designers, elevating their brands and clothing. Breana has learned early, that she holds a passion for creating change to protect what is sacred to her through art, as a young Lakota wxman. She is a youth activist and uses her platform to advocate for MMIP (Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons) epidemic, LandBack, Intergenerational Trauma, Environmental Justice issues, Indigenous Rights, and Two-Spirit visibility. Breana Brave Heart carries forward representing her community, and empowerment of liberation through Indigenous joy.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Gabriele-Marion Jones.....4-5

Maya Leija.....6-7

Osha Brown-Bear.....8-9

Fredrick Paul Gonzales.....10-12

Jamie John.....13-15

Kolü.....16-17

Dexter Komakaru.....18-19

Will Pollard.....20-21

Izaak Limón.....22-23

Heath Montgomery.....24-25

Lauritzin-Pahtli Escutia.....26-27

Tehya/Calliope Ramírez.....28-30

"Admire, America's Fine Addlers"



Gabriele-Marion Jones

Meet The Artist



Gabriele-Marion Jones (None/They/He)



"Close-minded teachings do not have to define us, even if it takes practice to perfect the message, or in [my] case, meaningful art."

With bewitching brushstrokes and a benevolent small business, Gabriele-Marion thrives when enriching Mother Nature, progressive movements, and other marvels that he is passionate to protect. Although Marion's "Bible Belt" state is synonymous with bigotry, self-determination and a will to "sweeten" southern charm compels the queer cowboy to spread compassion and creativity wherever he sees fit. Each artwork branded by Pollen An' Paint Art and Agriculture Co. builds Gabriele's vision to rouse nostalgia while portraying marginalized experiences and ecological wonders.

Location: South Carolina

Age: 18

"Love and Rage"



Maya Leija

Meet The Artist



Maya Leija (She/He)



“Living with masculinity/hardness and femininity/softness as coexisting parts of my identity gives me joy in honoring and reconnecting with my ancestors as they guide me to balance.”

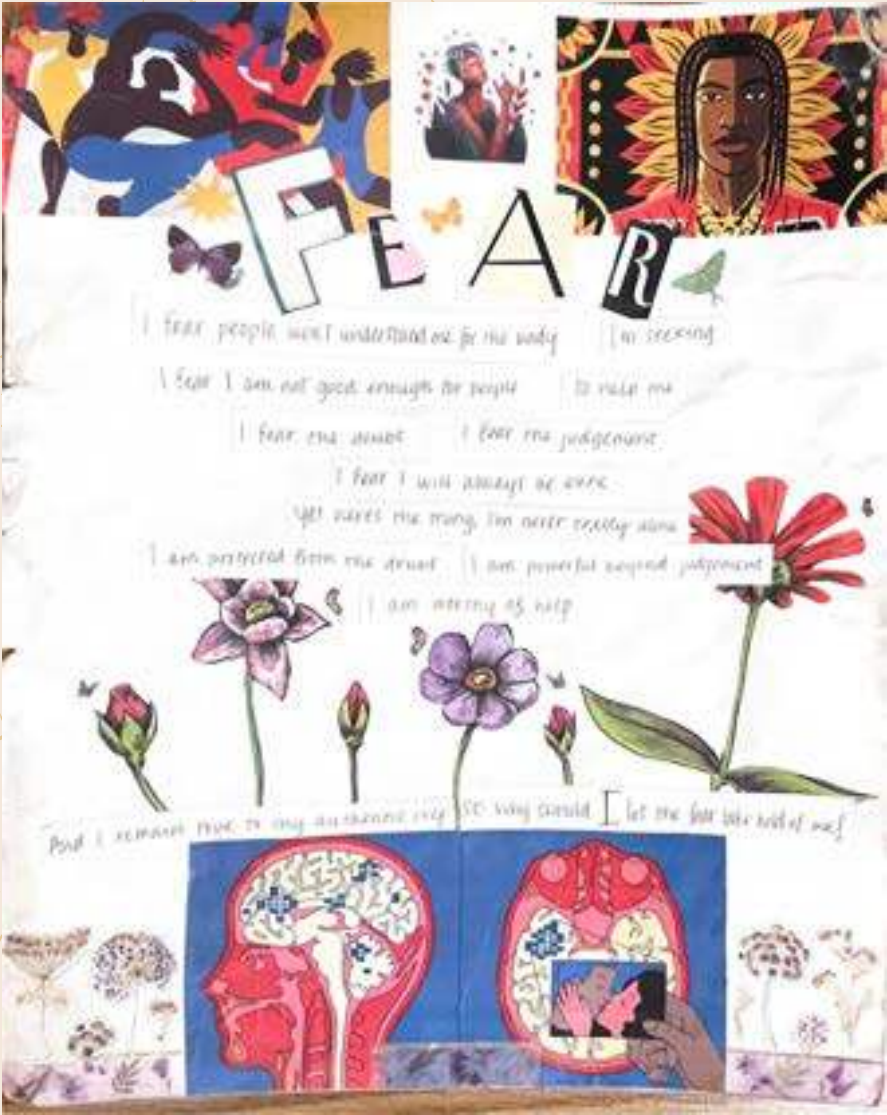
I was born and raised in Austin, Texas where I was surrounded by Latino culture. I strongly believe reclaiming Indigeneity for people of color is key to uniting us as people which is a journey

I have recently been on as an Mexican Indigenous person. Growing up in a community of artists helped me learn the importance of creation. I have a deep appreciation for mixed media artwork. I love working with textiles, ceramics, printmaking, tattoo and zines.

Location: Texas

Age: 18

"Fear"



Osha Brown-Bear

Meet The Artist



Osha Brown-Bear (They/He)



“This poem came to be while [I] was journaling leading up to Top Surgery. [My] life changed forever after this and they are the happiest they’ve ever been because of this decision!!!

Osha is a 2Spirit, Black and Indigenous individual who enjoys being in and advocating for their community! They spend most of their day working with preschoolers, teaching them to be brave, build confidence and have fun! They also teach/ coach skateboarding to their preschoolers as well as in community with QTBIPOC! When they’re not teaching they enjoy, skateboarding, snowboarding, surfing, and anything else in nature!

Location: California

Age: 25

“Sweet Honey and Oranges”- by Fredrick Paul Gonzales

I miss my grandmother;
Who I called
“Uela.”

For all her lives she lived, she too had a scratch in her throat,
A hole in her side
And next to the one made by her father and mother,
Was one that burned more intensely.

She sold oranges on the street
And when she was old enough to March,
She picketed.
When she was wise enough to know,
She heard the voices of her grandmother's;
The ones before time,
Before a written spanish word,
The ones that cried to come home;

And my grandmother,
When she passed,
She knew enough to find her way
Through the prairies and the fields
Of wildflowers and cutting grass
To the deserts both barren and speckled green
Until she met a great mountain.
She did not have to climb it, for she could fly,
And she flew to the top to see
Those voices now embodied.

And now,
They whisper to me;
And maybe I will learn the path
Through the prairies to the desert
And climb the mountain where I will see
Those voices waiting,
Holding that piece of me I have been missing
And with sweet honey,
they will attach it.

"The Doves"



Fredrick Paul Gonzales

Meet The Artist



Fredrick Paul Gonzales (They/Any)



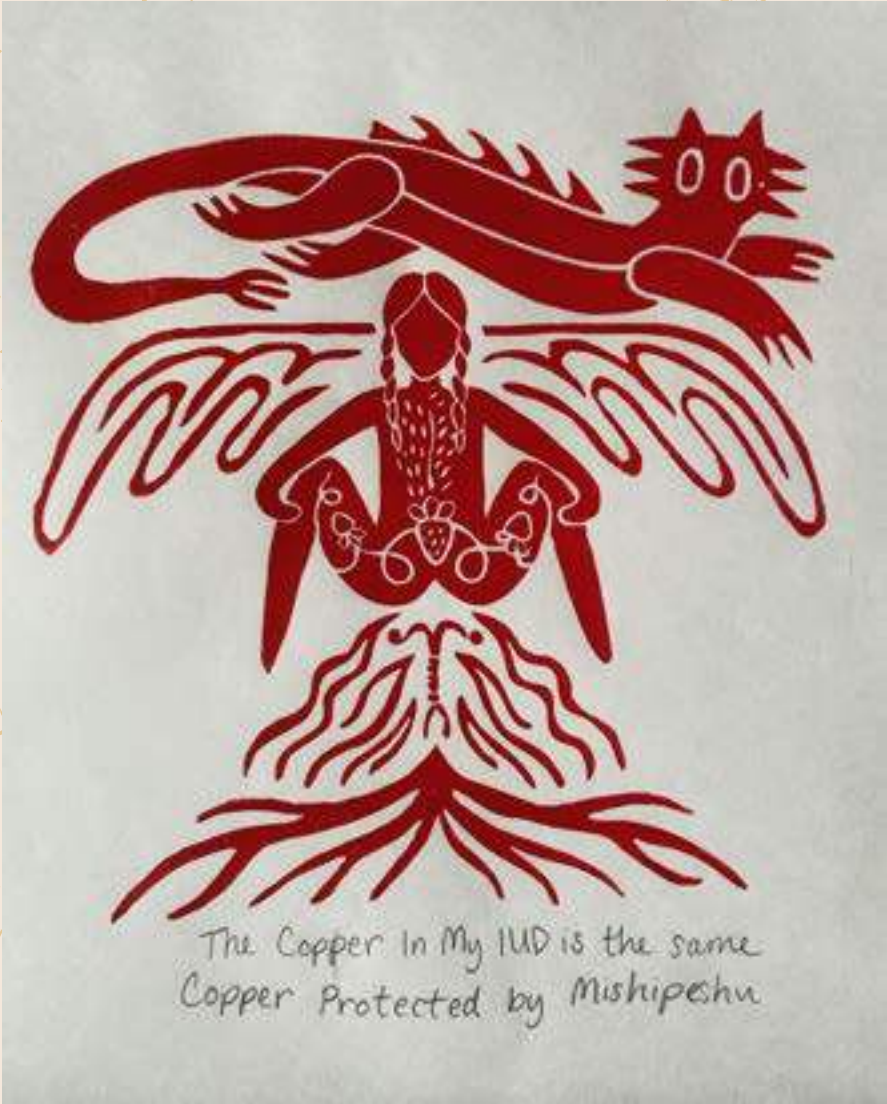
"I try to follow in [my abuela's] footsteps and honor my family's Indigenous roots and find for myself that connection to my ancestors and my abuela."

Fredrick Paul Gonzales is a disabled, mexican, chicano and native american artist based in central Ohio. Their work is heavily inspired by their heritage and queer identity, ranging across many mediums and styles, most often including, digital art, pencil drawing, digital video or animation, poetry and makeup artistry. Following in the footsteps of their family's artists, they strive to represent the struggles and joys of their queer, disabled and indigenous communities, celebrating and navigating life through art and creativity.

Location: Ohio

Age: 19

"The Copper in My IUD"



Jamie John

"My Gender Is..."



Jamie John

Meet The Artist



Jamie John (He/They)



"Art has been a way of navigating and communicating [my] understanding of colonialism, gender variance, and the intergenerational capacity for trauma and joy."

Jamie John is an Anishinaabe and Korean-American 2 Spirit trans and queer multidisciplinary artist and powwow dancer.

They are a tribal citizen of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and grew up primarily in northern Michigan and within their tribal community. After the passing of their maternal grandfather their mother placed Jamie in group art therapy for other young children grieving their grandparents. The act of making visual art quickly filled their days, with printmaking becoming their primary medium only in the past few years. Jamie is a graduate from Interlochen Arts Academy as an Interdisciplinary Arts major with concentrations in visual arts and creative writing. He loves his cat, traveling by train, making art, and spending time with his friends.

Location: Michigan

Age: 23

"Another Day in Wallmapu"



Kolü

Meet The Artist



Kolü (He/Him)



"Joy is a form of resistance. I decided to draw the daily things I do that keep me alive."

mari mari kom pu che

I'm a creator by chance and survival. Iñche (I am) mapuche, brown, travesti. I hope this can be a chance to learn about our people- the plants, the native forest, the herbs that keep me healthy, the land I stand on, my brown feet on the wet grass, the adventures, what my ancestors lived, the animal friends, my community, remembering, transforming myself into a free being, finding each other in freedom.

Location: Wallmapu

Age: 28

"DEFEND THE SACRED"



Dexter Komakaru

Meet The Artist



Dexter Komakaru (He/Him)



“My art is both a reflection and a ritual for me. Each piece is like a visual prayer for the world I want to live in – one rooted in liberation and relationship. Creating to love, serve, and remember.”

I'm a Two Spirit transman, multidisciplinary artist, and creator based in Central Ohio. My creative practice blends lived experience, storytelling, intuitive movement, and imagery inspired by our natural world and my creative visions of it to explore themes of change, healing, spirit, and reclamation. I'm also a yoga practitioner and aspiring teacher, passionate about somatic healing, mental health advocacy, and fostering intuitive anti-capitalist creativity in my own work and others. My work often reflects the intersection of queerness, intersectionality, ancestral intergenerational connection, and collective freedom. Outside of art, I work in youth advocacy for homeless youth in my community and creative consulting/mentorship, and am deeply committed to supporting other artists in reclaiming their own joy and power through creative practice.

Location: Ohio

Age: 23

"Angelic Call"



Will Pollard

Meet The Artist



Will Pollard (All Pronouns)



"I have an angel in the back of my mind protecting me, with what's going on in the world right now."

I am a young artist who's working towards becoming a manga artist in Japan. I am the youngest of four siblings with a wonderful mom. I am currently working on a comic series (Concepting the story and characters) I love anime, horror, manga, and Spider-Man.

Location: New Mexico

Age: 13

"Keep it Burnin'"

Back in Ventura county
 North side 805
 Dean drive
 Citrus in the air
 Surrounded by oaks & fruit trees
 So called land of the free
 We keep it burnin in southern cali
 Yet so many of my people locked up
 We got more state prisons than public universities
 We are dismissed
 Labeled unapproachable
 Because of our complexion & dress
 Dressed as a vato thug
 They thinking I'm out slanging drugs
 Beanie on my head
 Chain around my neck
 They assumin im on probation
 They assumin im on parole
 This country paid to save the man
 Occupy & steal the land
 Kill the Indian & his spiritual soul
 Yet I'm still here with my homies
 Smokin bowl after bowl

My family was here before the borders
 before the expansion & the holy orders
 I'm part of the many seeds
 That continue to grow & feed
 You won't find me at church
 But I know right from wrong
 I inhale slow whenever I hit my bong
 My state would rather criminalize me
 Than to humanize me
 Rather incarcerate
 Than to educate me

I know the definition of equality
 I prefer to take my own lead
 Not to follow anyone willingly
 Escape the greed
 Bask in my humility
 Keep Burnin' sage
 Keep burning weed

We keep it burnin in southern Cali
 Can't find me ?
 That's the point
 I'm smokin in the back alley

Izaac Limón

Meet The Artist



Izaak Limón (He/Him/El)



"My work has been greatly inspired by being a third generation Californian. We are as native as the fruit that grows on the trees."

Born & raised in Ventura County & currently resides in Oakland, CA. Trans 2spirit Cholo. I am a poet, storyteller & advocate. I like to show the pain, joy, & laughter through my work. My work encompasses my various identities that shape my experiences as a trans young adult living in California. I honor the past & present as well as my hopes for the future.

Location: California

Age: 25

"Protect Trans Joy!"



Heath Montgomery

Meet The Artist



Heath Montgomery (He/Him)



"This picture is about being able to feel comfortable in your body, about being able to be joyful, something that needs to be protected."

I am an artist, storyboarder, scriptwriter, and an amateur cat whisperer. I am Choctaw, Cherokee, Nahua, and a lot of other things. I grew up surrounded by a bunch of Native American cultures. I enjoy the things I've learned from this upcoming. It's influenced how I feel about nature, gender, art, and a bunch of other things.

Location: California

Age: 18

Future Indigiqueer Elders

By: Lauritzin-Pahtli

To grow old and happy is something we never dare to dream

Two spirits intertwined with resistance and pride

We color the earth and sky

Our laughter and joy

Our roots run free

Beneath the sacred cedar our stories unfold

The whispers and songs of our ancestors woven in our veins

Together we rise and build a love of friendship

We sing to our grandmother moon

We hold ceremony within our friendship

We dance in the moonlight

Reflecting the dreams we dare to dream

Singing the songs to bring us closer together

We walk this journey hand in hand

Where we live in a world that often dims our glow

However we find strength and warmth of our embrace

Speaking for our people

Walking with our ancestors

With each step

We honor our past

As we walk towards the future

We are the future Indigiqueer ancestors

One day

Our future generations can scream without fear

"I LOVE MY QUEER TWO SPIRIT ANCESTORS"

Meet The Artist



Lauritzin-Pahtli Escutia (They/Elle)



"When I become elder I want my future relatives to feel love and to be free to scream with so much joy. QUE VIVA LA RESISTENCIA TRANS!!"

Pialli , Notoka Lauritzin- Pahtli huan NoOme Itonal. I am a proud trans -Nonbinary Indigenous person that comes from the Purépecha and Nahuatl nations. I am a student at Sonoma State University and studying Chicanx and Latine Studies with a minor in Native American Studies. Thank you for reading my story and letting me be vulnerageous.

Location: California

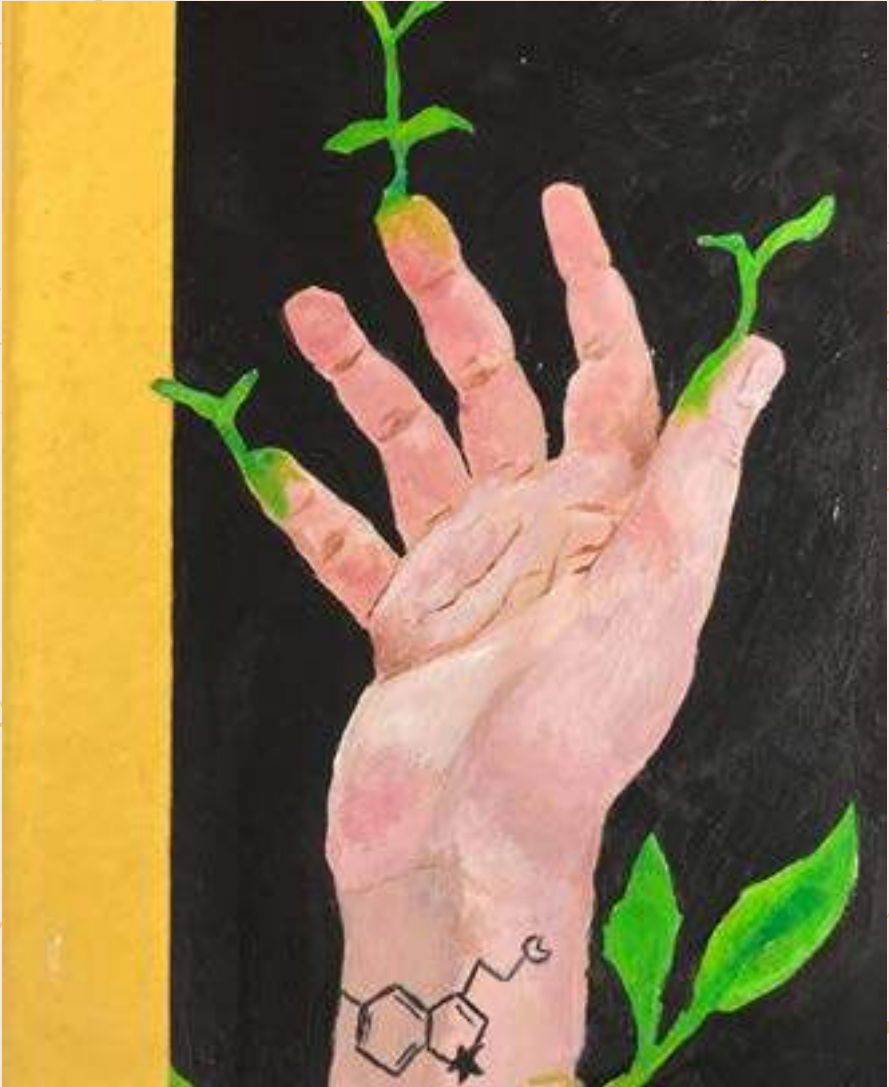
Age: 20

"Self- Portrait"



Tehya/Calliope Ramirez

"Hope"



Tehya/Calliope Ramirez

Meet The Artist



Tehya/Calliope Ramirez (He/Xe)



"[Making these pieces] helped me to really connect with myself and foster hope for my future.

Tehya is a disabled, queer, Indigenous artist based in Ohio. He mainly focuses on portraits, though often uses his art to make political statements or to aid in his activism work. Xe works with a variety of mediums, but his favourites are ink/stippling, acrylic painting, and fiber arts.

Location: Ohio

Age: 21



TWO SPIRIT JOY

Follow us on Instagram!



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@Indigenous.Joyy

@Indigenous.Bhaddie



Indigenous Joy