

COSMIC DUST



CHAPTER 9b RADICAL MEDICINE PROJECT

*All I ever wanted was to be loved
The universe to its utmost immensity
As art loved me & is me*

OCTOBER 2022

INTRODUCTION TO 'COSMIC DUST; A VISUAL ARTIVISTIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY' PROJECT

When I first began this book project, my thought was to my catalog my beadwork and related arts. As I proceeded along the journey of this study, I found that my beadwork expanded into 'installation' projects and that these projects called for a personae to express aspects of the concepts and politicalities attached to the beadwork. This progression launched naturally and more thoroughly into covering related works in his/herstory, familial, tribal, political, current areas. I found myself covering far greater ground than I had expected. As this project grew, in unexpected ways and volume, I decided it would be best to divide the book into 'book chapters'. As I proceeded further on the path of exploring and chronicling...I found that my works were very cohesive and yet diverged in ever expanding and deepening ways. I discovered that the beadwork projects blossomed into performance, storytelling, character/personae pieces and 'actions' rooted in 'JUSTICE' themes. All sorts of actions, on the front-line, on stage, on page, in video, music, movement as well as visual arts, writing and in my core 'being'. The process of this 'book' surprised me no end, reflective of this life we live.

This project, I feel speaks to and honors SURVIVAL OF CREATIVE SPIRIT in ALL of US, as and well expresses an incredible *tenacity of female spirit*, prevailing against hard odds. Spirit transcending destructive forces into beauty and heart.

For me, this whole project is an act of appreciation and gratitude to CREATRIXSTER, our SACRED SPIRITS and to all of you, all who have helped, supported, encouraged, nurtured, taught, shared, inspired, loved me, themselves, any being... in any and all ways, all the ACTIVISTS, ARTIVISTS, who give themselves to easing suffering in this world, who sacrifice themselves for understanding, the environment, love, empathy and compassion, kindness. There are so many characters and stories in these pages, I hope you find a piece of yourself and lots of courage somewhere in these pages.

My grandmother, Minnie Nicholas (full-blood Chiricahua Nde' 'Apache'), began my training when I was a tot. She handed me a pen & a pad to write in, a brush to paint with and a needle to wield beads with. She, herself, was a painter and beadwork artist, who taught me all she knew. I would sit beside her working with my beads as she worked creating beautiful loom and rosette pieces; a place and moment of utmost peace and contentment. She and I had a profoundly empathic relationship, she was a quiet, shy person, very humble, in her light...so was I. She gave me the acceptance, space, trust to be curious, open, explore, be playful and fearless. My father was a visual artist, my mother & aunt were aficionados of jazz, swing dance & clothing creation. My mother was a highly creative person who studied all the time, striving to

improve herself, find self-awareness, consciousness and growth. She learned all the words to all the original Jazz songs, singing them to me frequently. (forthcoming: a written autobiography). I received degrees from many arts schools while extensively, continuously seeking additional private training (dance, music, voice, movement & more). My influences in the arts have been vast. I send great appreciation to all the many teachers & friends who have contributed their gifts to my work & being.

There's a story I tell about a traditional walking stick I produced for Bob Haozous (one of our tribe's master artists). It relates the process of creating the cane (from an original age dilapidated walking stick owned by Geronimo, which I was able to visit in museum archives in Oklahoma and examine first hand) with a trip dear friend, Navajo-Hopi ceramicist, Nathan Begay, his brother and I took down then back up the Grand Canyon. We walked down easily, enjoying vast, colorful views of the striated earth formations around us. We rested a minute by the flowing waters of the Rio Grande River, then began our 10-mile trek back up the steep incline. Nathan cautioned me "Whatever you do, don't look up." I took heed, allowed myself to be present in each step, no destination, just process. As we walked along, many a weary traveler, sat by trail side, staring up, paralyzed by the daunting task of reaching the rim above, exhausted and unable to take another step. They awaited a burro who would eventually rescue them and carry them to the snow-covered plateau above. Step after step, some hours later my feet touched the snow covered rim. The cane took all summer to finish, I did not look up, I immersed myself in the meticulous process of stitching...one tiny bead after the next...bead by bead, step by step. A process that slowly revealed a wonderous beaded replica of Geronimo's original cane. I was humbled by the beauty of the original bead designer's color choices, patterns, genius...I learned so much in the process of recreating that person's amazing work. This Cosmic Dust project has been equal to both those journeys in forcing my being to focus and be totally present, in challenging my abilities towards growth and in manifestation of something far beyond myself. All of these journeys carried me such vast distances within myself and the world.

My tribe, the Chiricahua Nde' lost over 90% of our people just 100 years ago to genocide holocaust. We're the group Geronimo and Cochise are from. (I'm a direct descendant of Cochise.) We were punished relentlessly for *never surrendering* to invading colonial forces, there was an 'EXTIRMINATION' order against us by the US government. Our children were then taken from us and forced into boarding schools, where our's had the highest death rate in those schools. My particular family was extremely abusive. My mother was raped when she was two, causing devastating injury to her psyche. As well, she suffered other abuses during her life, including being bullied by her siblings and my father. Among others, my aunt bullied her, my grandmother & I. She and my aunt bullied me. While I was very little, my mother having no

boundaries, was sexually inappropriate in close proximity to me, extremely loud sex in a room near where I was, with doors open, many times, it terrified me. I was molested beginning at the age of 4, by my grandmother's best friends' husband (a pedophile who during his lifetime was found to have molested many little girls, including my cousin and his own little granddaughter), a Soix Native. Depravity knows no race etc., I was molested by a variety of people of all genders and ages etc. including two teen-aged girls when I was 6 and 7, and my best friend's older brother when I was 11, my cousin, who under the guise of giving me a blessing, put his hands over my head, behind my back, under my arms, fondling my breasts in the process,,in front of his wife. She and I looked at each other...her maybe some sort of denial...me...just confounded and hurt. All of these among others. I was raped the first time I had actual sex at the age of 15, again when I was 18 and unfortunately again when I was in my 40's by a prominent performance artist, whom I trusted, and had no reason to believe would do anything like this and, a person whome I requested mentor me. My sexuality was completely hi-jacked as was my self-confidence. I became suicidal and like my mother, a 'sex and love' addict, using sex to anesthize and as a weapon against myself.

Trauma, intergenerational trauma, trauma...many and varied forms of violation of sanctity of being. I suffer from PTSD, experiencing anxiety and panic attacks (& awful nightmares) When I was younger I was clinically, chronically suicidally depressed, this seriously infringed on my abilities to connect, be present and access 'love', within/without.

I was also the first light skinned child (honey colored skin, Irish red hair) in my extended Native family group and encountered a great deal of counter-racism...resulting in huge dose of 'IDENTITY CRISIS', 'imposter syndrome'. I had a terrible self-image, body-image issues. I did not recognize myself in the mirror, who looked back at me was not who I thought myself to be. I was embarrassed to be 'white' a perpetrator of atrocities against my people, the people I loved, so unreconcilable. I was raised with Apache people, I always thought I looked like them, but the way Apache's responded to me did not correlate with how I saw myself.

I was deeply bonded with my grandmother, who left when I was 13 to take care of my szphorenci uncle. I had heavy abandonment issues due to this rupture in connection, I never understood, emotionally, why or how she could have left me there with my abusive mother. Later in life I have been able to under/innerstand.

The message I received from others was that I was hideous and deserved mistreatment. I expressed that ingrained negative message at every chance. I was self-destructive, confused, lost, deeply injured. Because I had had the love and trust with my grandmother and because we had often attended Chiricahua sacred ceremonies where we were blessed by our Sacred Spirits I was able to care enough for myself to leave my mother and her pedophile husband, not allow them to destroy me completely, soul murder me and to be on my own when I turned 16..

My mother was a terrible alcoholic as well, as was my father, whom she left when I was two, due to his abuses of her. When he was in a drunken rage he would call her "DIRTY INDIAN!"...cliché 'Irish drunk? She had transferred her addiction to alcohol to an attachment to the pedophile, who pursued me from the age of 15 until I was in my late 20's when I was no longer accessible. He did ultimately molest my little sister by he and my mother.

On my own, alone in San Francisco, I was sure I wouldn't make it to 18. Every year thereafter I was amazed to still be alive. About a decade ago I cut ties with my abusive aunt and her enabling daughter, who now is involved in counseling support for her traumas...my prayers for her wellbeing answered. And, a few years ago I was finally able to cut ties with my mother and her enabling daughter, who is now involved with a supportive group of people, helping her with her issues and traumas, the omni-verse is wonderous!

I am no 'victim' I always fight back. With the help of kind people, friends, 12-step, support groups, therapy, ceremony, yoga, meditation, arts, boundaries, the viserality and truth of my own body and being...I find myself a mature womxn, an elder, a matriarch, a culture bearer for my tribe; full of joy; happy, happy to be alive and grateful to be who I am. Truly astounding. Despite everything predators, abusers, oppressors have done to destroy me...this spirit I am exists. And, beyond all the horrors...I have done wonders with this existence...

MY EXISTENCE IS RESISTENCE.

As Native people:

OUR EXISTENCE IS RESISTENCE

Lalalalalalalaaaaalaaaaaaa!!!!

My works reflect, resonate this as you will soon see.

Regarding the works: In my works, at times, the projects are separate entities unto themselves, reflecting only one area of training, at other times everything coalesces into multi-faceted projects. The first third of this chapter book series explores simple into elaborate aspects of many forms. And, as I do love experimentation, exploration, play, discovery & PROCESS this exploration is often highly surprising. I dispense with this 'easier to more complicated' structure in the rest of the book due to the sequence of related works and time periods of pieces overlapping in a highly random form.

In this chapter set, I am endeavoring to pronounce the momentum from object-based work into performance arts, inundations and performance (which also involves intricate costuming aspects). I am not a 'Jack of All Trades', but have actually mastered many forms. I work in a spiral which is ever building upon the tier below...sometimes writing, performance and singing, sometimes singing, painting, beading, etc....carrying each discipline to the next level of discovery when revisited.

The 'COSMIC DUST' book chapter series represents about three fourths of my work. Many works were not documented and some documentation has been lost over the years. My apologies for the condition of some of the photos, this is all that is available at this time. Additionally, forthcoming is the third portion of this series which will cover the vibrant DRAWINGS, PAINTINGS, PRINTS, BOOKS etc. that I have produced during my lifetime...over 1,000 pieces.

MANY OF THESE WORKS ARE PART OF OUR CHIRICAHUA WARM SPRINGS TRIBE OF NEW MEXICO's and other collections. Many are owned by other individuals who bought or traded for them. I have also gifted a great many to various people. Personally, I retain only my ceremonial pieces and some installation bits.

I am LED by a muse who paces me at the speed of a lighting ball creatively, perpetually expanding the 'petty me' into a universe far beyond the reaches of my tiny self. I enjoy this process immensely.

To honor existence, myself and all who struggle against oppressive, destructive forces and to honor all my friends and supporter and all who have contributed positively to my being...it brings me the greatest joy be able to share with all of you, the fruit of who I am in this 'Cosmic Dust a Visual Artivistic Autobiography' project. There are so many, many **STORIES** and **CHARACTERS** in these chapters, I hope you find a bit of yourself, **courage. light**, love, love love...love to the fish in the sea, love in the kaleidoscopic forms of the clouds in the sky, love through the pain, love to breathe and live by...curiosity, play, focus...positive manifestations...borne of love. May this visitation bring you light, life...pleasure, discovery, peace...courage, Cranberry sauce to all!

Thank you for witnessing!

Love to all.

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LOVING

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MY MOTHER CAROLINE ZUREGA & AUNT MARY ZUREGA
@ 2022 Chirichua Warm-Springs Nde' Apache Ceremony, Apache, Oklahom

Social Justice, Environmental Actions, Empowerment Marches, Prayer Gatherings, Solidarity Moves, Standing Rock & All Camps, Water & Life Guardians, Healing Psyche, Being Present, Compassion & Stillness Practices & lots of performances with many relatives.

Radical Medicine projects are social justice works. My works have always addressed themes related to oppression & freeing ourselves & cultures of oppressive forces (within/without). With the coming of Standing Rock, I found my works propelled into deeper, more aggressive & deliberate forms of expressing realities in this vein, utilizing all sorts of mediums including: performance art, body as site & one up photo performances, Body & Environment Integration, music, writings, a flash album series, movement, visual arts, some book series, music theater, video, participation in Social Justice events & actions & more, all with the end of speaking to & standing up to oppression in all its forms, within/without, wherever it has any grip.

Some projects inspired by this day's Climate Justice Movement and include: *Radical Music Theater*: 'Freedom of the Rain', 'Red Veins', 'Sacred Children', 'Mother Water'

Radical Videos: 'Palestinian Made', 'Displaced', 'Every Act of Art is Resistance', 'The Circle That Brought Food', 'Two Horses', 'No Tears', 'Doomsday', 'Alchemy'

Some people involved in the project:

Core: Mark Pino: Badass Drum Scape, Z Zaro, Miguel Garcia, deCoy Gallerina, Rudradeep Chakrabarti: Director: Theatre Movement International aka MC Tender Surrender, Lady Pheonix, Lambi Negro,

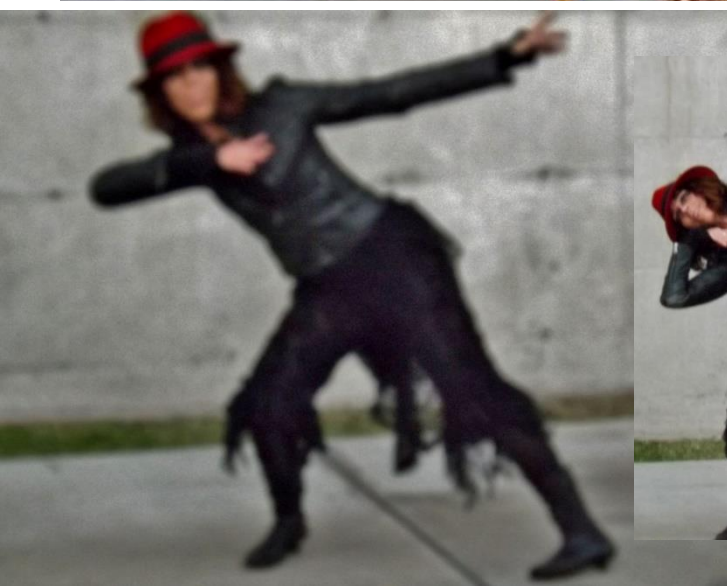
Guests: Tea Jones & Friend, Matt Vend: The Tender Ten, Katie Nehls, Patricia St. Onge of Nafsi Sweat Lodge Community, Joe Whittle of the Guardian U.K., Benjamin J. Benavidez: Nde' Singer & Drummer, Nanette Deetz & Redbird

Some locations in these photos: Ivy Room; FREE RED FAWN LEGAL FEES BENEFIT; Curator: DG, Mutiny Radio, Ivy Room, Stork Club, Pino Libre' Studios, Climate Music Project, Universal Unitarian Church, Jasmine Moorehead;s Crowsnest Gallery, Kava Kava, Counter Pulse Theater, Aggregate Gallery, SOMARTS, SKINS of San Francisco State University, Treasure Island, Rock Paper Scissors Collective; Unpredictable: Curator: Lionel McNeeley, Jordan Hansen's Tiny Boat Sessions

Thankyou one and all!!!

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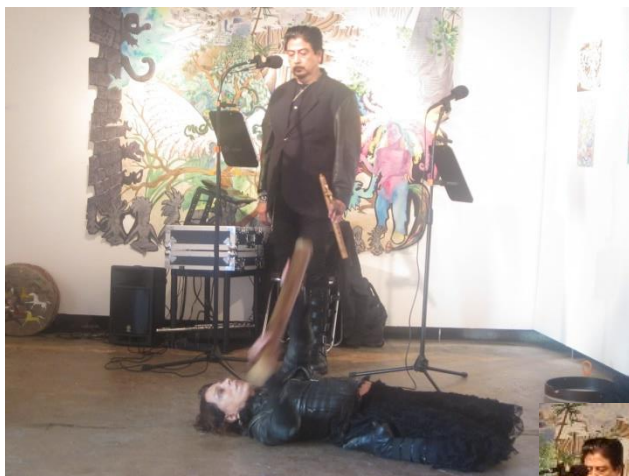






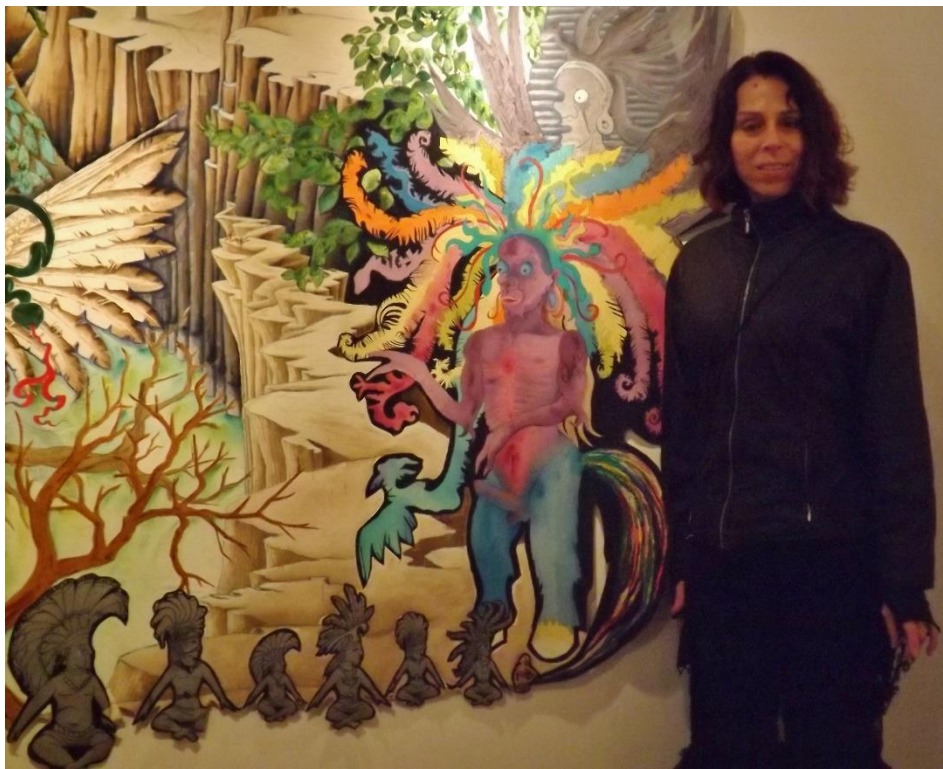




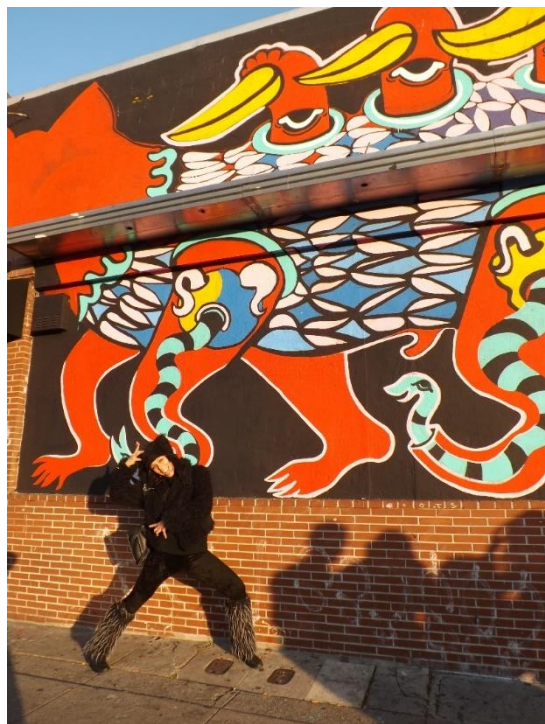


CROW'SNEST GALLERY









!! OAKLAND RADICAL !!

ALALA

BOYCOTT BULLSHIT II

THEATRE MOVEMENT INTERN







THE CLIMATEMUSIC PROJECT

What do we want the future to sound like?











FREEDOM
of the
RAIN





TWO HORSELS



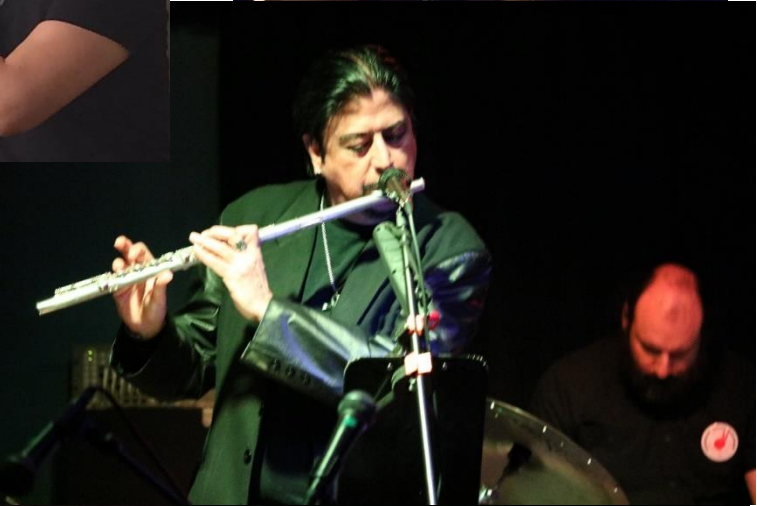
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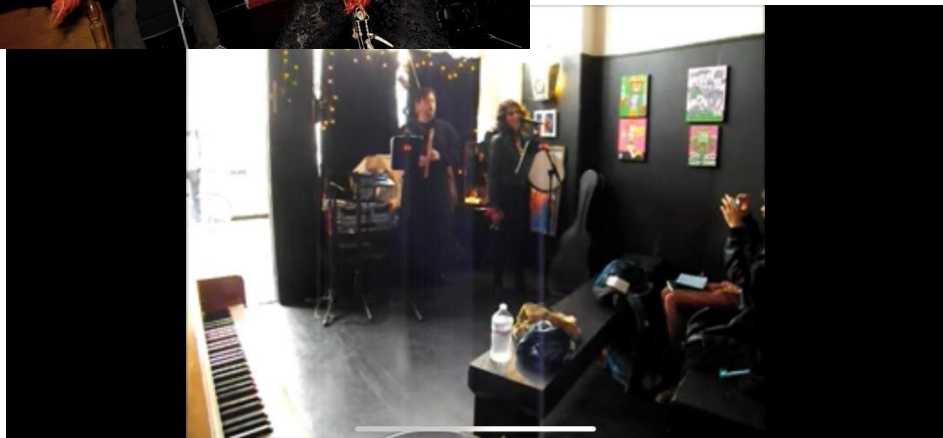


MIGUEL
GARCIA

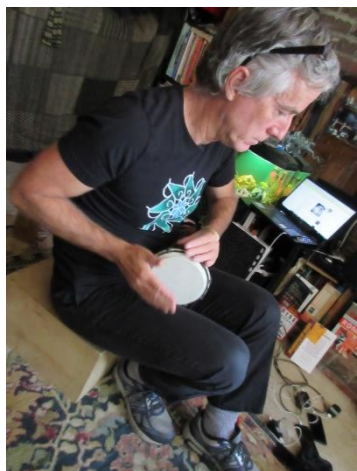




WHITE RABBIT







ZZARO





**RADICAL
MEDICINE SHOW**



IVY ROOM

860 SAN PABLO AVENUE, ALBANY

Thursday Dec. 21 8pm
In Live Performance
Miguel Garcia, DeCoy
Gallerina, Mark Pino
and Special Guests



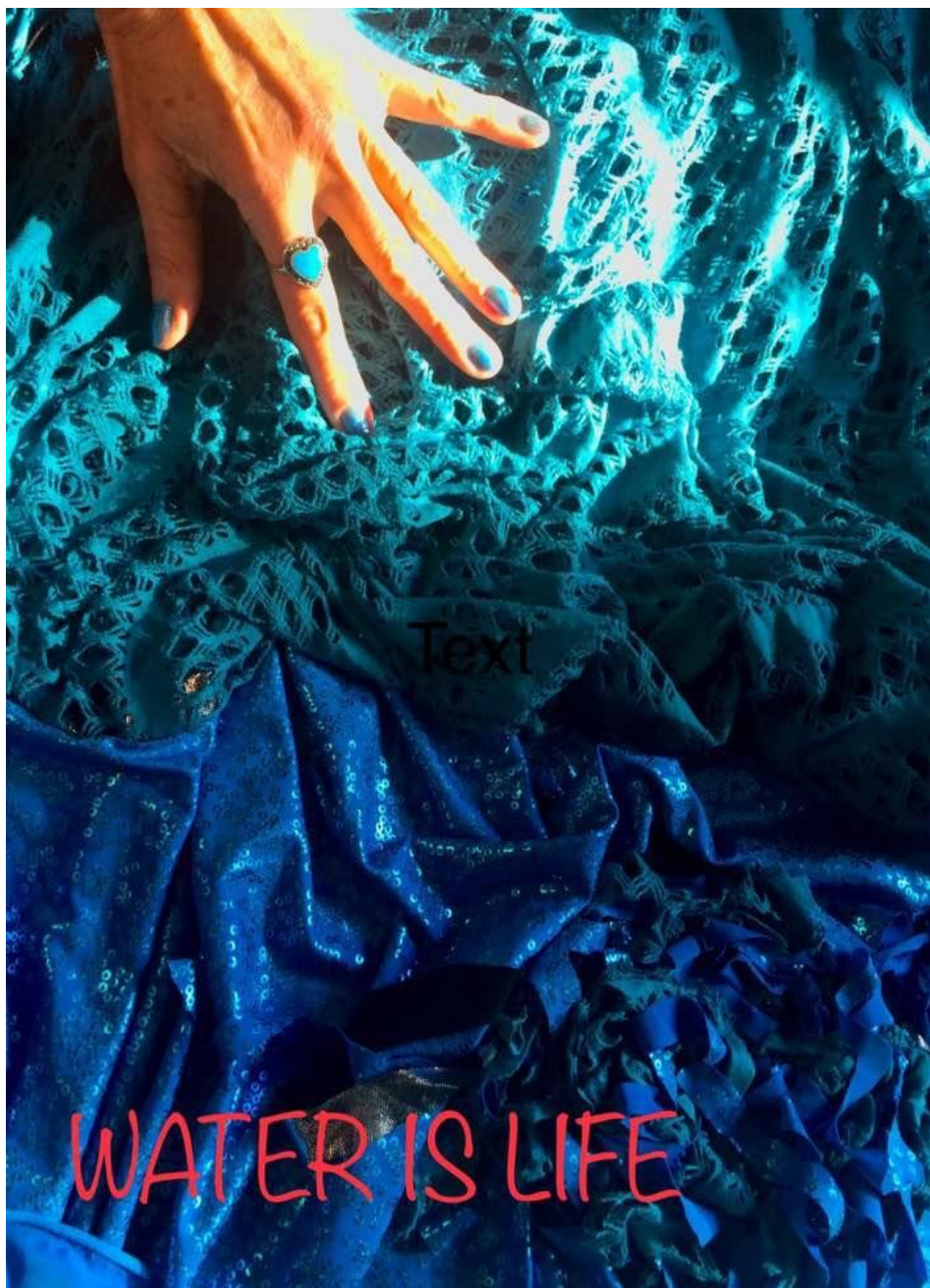






WITH YOU





Text

WATER IS LIFE



BENEFIT
for



RED FAWN







NANETTE
DEETZ



&
REDBIRD





RED
VEINS







SACRED CHILDREN



TIA JONES & FREIND



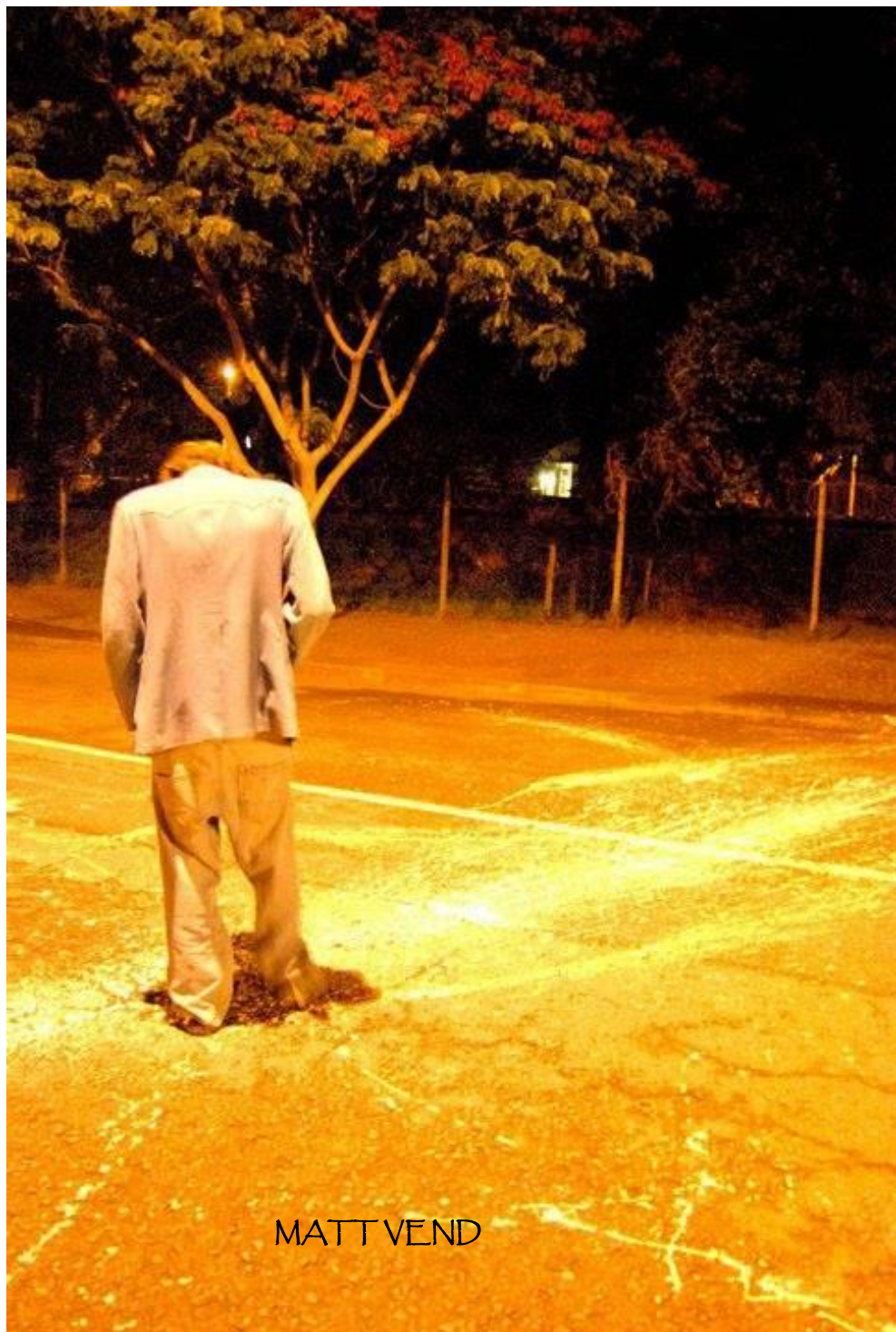




MARK PINO BADAZZ DRUMMER



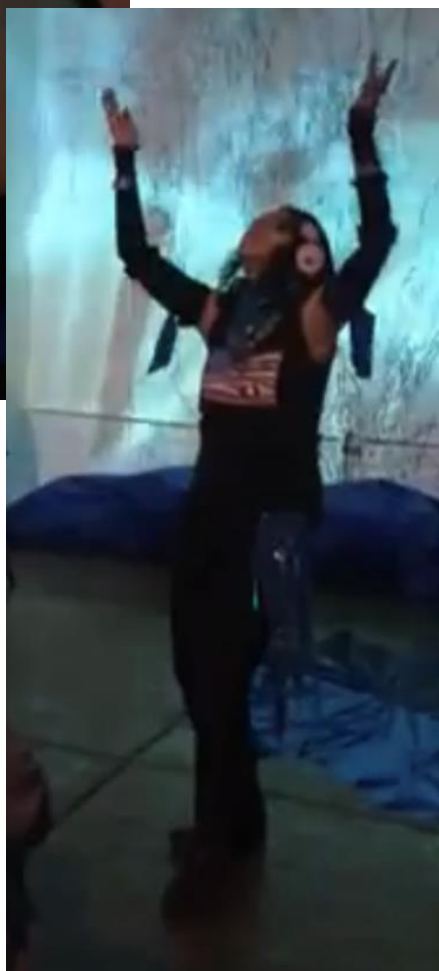
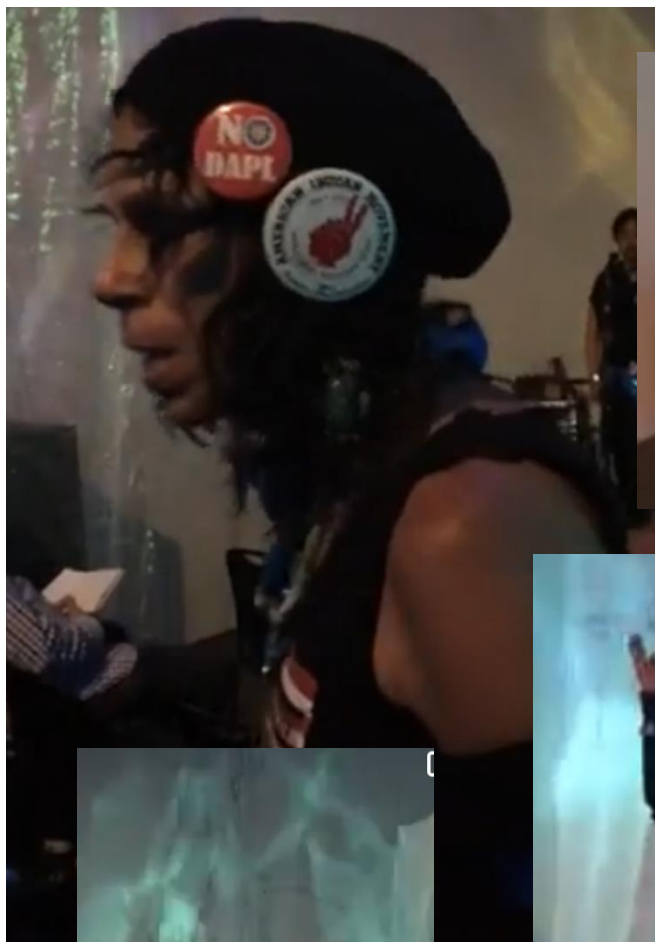


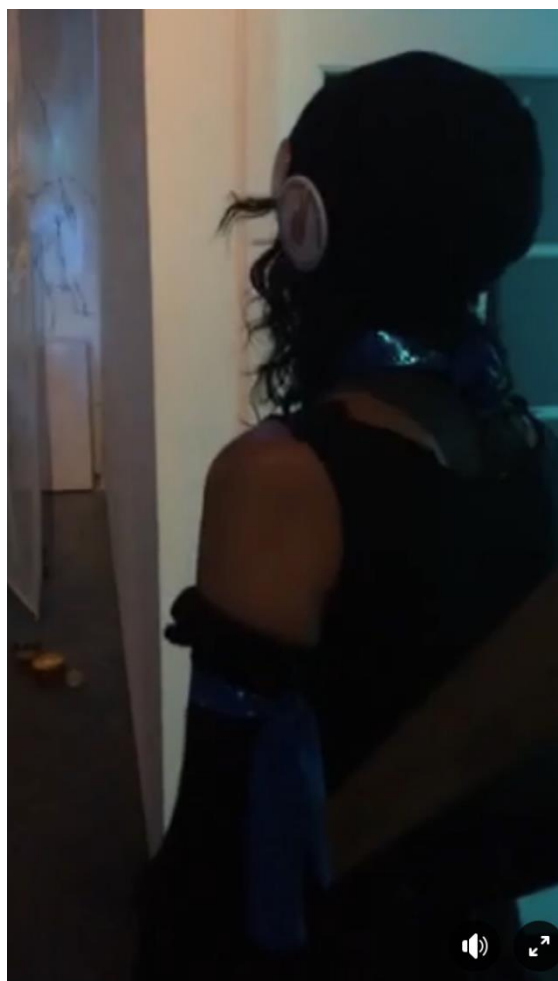
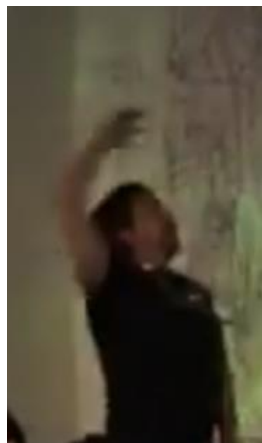


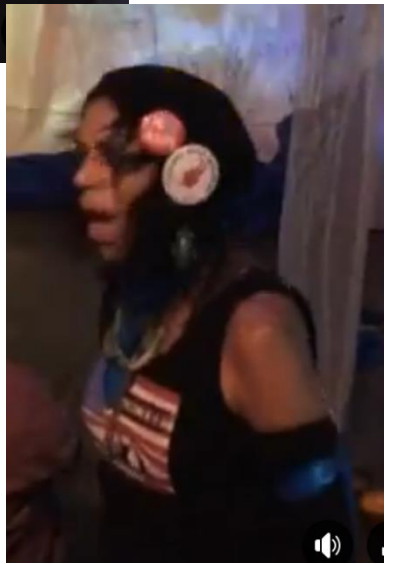
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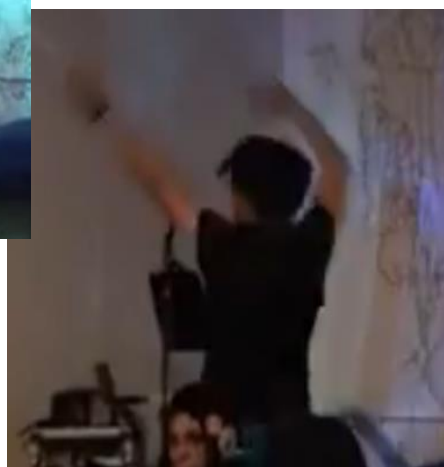
FREEDOM of the RAIN &
MOTHER WATER











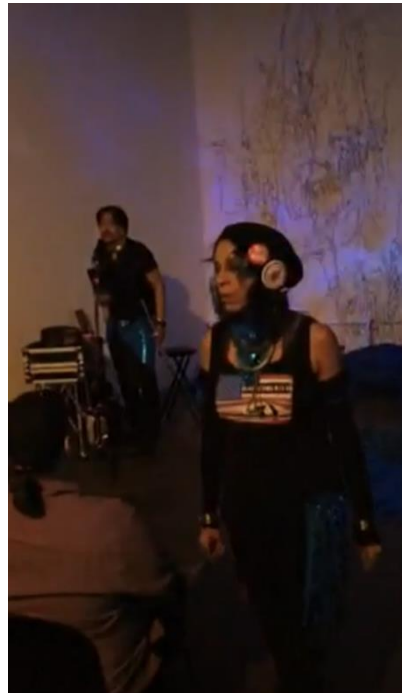


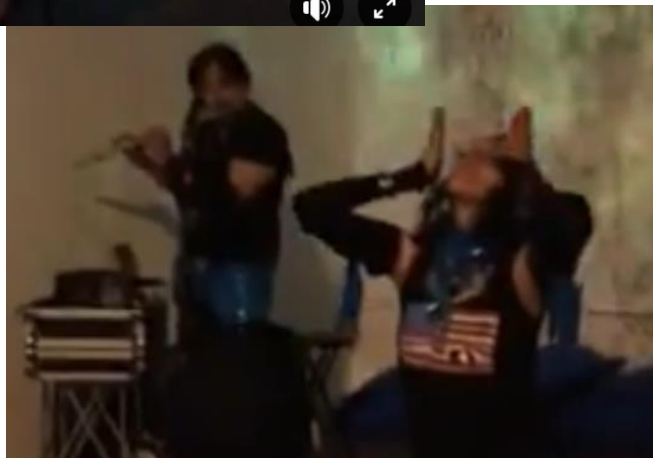










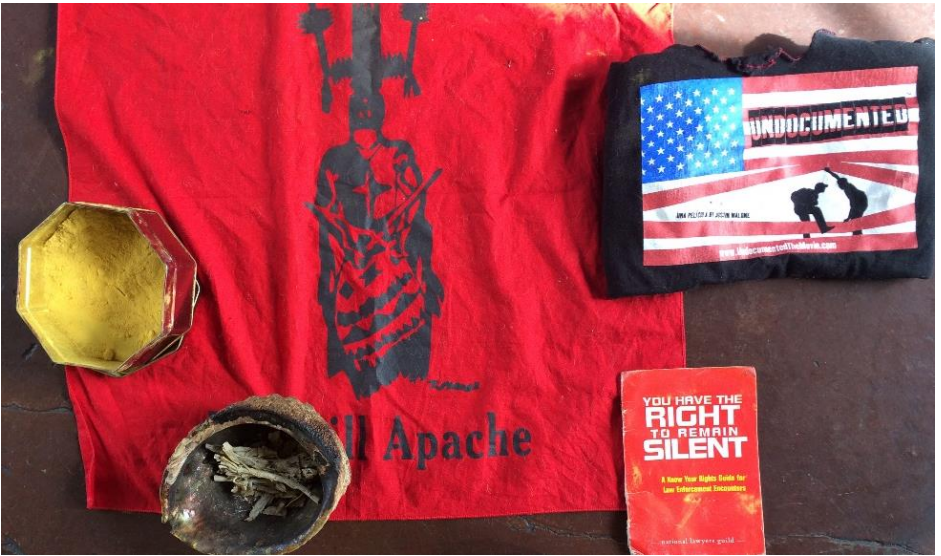




next page:
with Vince Vigil
@ Rock Paper
Scissors Collective's
Unpredictable Show
Curated by Lionel
McNeeley











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Radical Medicine ▾



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About

Photos

Mentions



1.7K views



Home



Watch



Groups



Page



Notifications



Menu









SOME LINKS

radicalmedicine.org & theatremovementinternational.org

for bios & more info

radicalmedicine.bandcamp.com for music

decoygallerina on You Tube & SM

ALCHEMY

<https://youtu.be/PKQOJKCRGqE>

HOZHO

<https://youtu.be/sJJZS1ee7T0>

I AM

<https://youtu.be/EOkbHiDtOJQ>

NO TEARS

<https://youtu.be/jENaTGq3W5E>

PUNK MEDITATION; MARK PINO, DRUMS

https://youtu.be/TndE1D33Y_s

RED VEINS, BENEFIT FOR RED FAWN @ IVY ROOM

https://youtu.be/MPWsQRh_zms

RED VEINS

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TINY BOAT SESSIONS

<https://youtu.be/E05cie2tYgM>

<https://www.tinyboatsession.com/rudradeep-chakrabarti>

<https://www.tinyboatsession.com/decoy-gallerina>

Website:

<https://www.tinyboatsession.com/?fbclid=IwAR32Okap99EzRPt6UbtVF8ezlhFC-H49px-e2g-IQMLYjvp0Bnx331bQphM>

WE GOT THE POWER

<https://youtu.be/Wfans1eG4wU>

WHITE RABBIT FIGHTING DEAMONS

<https://youtu.be/ywBYnk-FpFY>

art: sprinkles of cosmic dust

a culture that knows that each of us is a cosmic being,
that each of us is the universe...& that the universe expresses itself through love
& Love is art... the universe is art... & Art sparkles from each of us...
i am art, art is me, i am the cosmic realm

I am SACRED SPIRIT
PRESENT NIW
in body & being, feeling & healing
within/without, seen/unseen, now/ininitely

special acknowledgements to my/our partial funders:
Our Tribe; The Chiricahua Warm Springs Nde' Tribe of New Mexico
Aka Fort Sill Apaches
Center for Cultural Innovation,
& Peter J. McIntyre, John & Maxine Zaro
To all my teachers & guides especially Michael Leeland Darrow
(Chiricahua Nde' Apache Tribal Historian/Cultural Expert/Member)

MINIWICHONIE. WATER IS LIFE
& To all who helped me/us to survive
OUR EXISTENCE IS RESISTENCE
LALALALLALLALALALAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!

radicalmedicine.org
theatremovementinternational.org
deCoy Galleria c. 12'18
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THANKS FOR SUPPORTING LIVING ARTISTS; WE KEEP LIFE LOVING

DECOY GALLERINA: SHORT BIO 2022

STATUS & ORIGINS: Rebel Irish/Chiricahua Nde' ('Fort Sill' Apache; the group Geronimo & Cochise are from), Matriarch/Elder, Culture Bearer, Two-Spirit, Cross-Platform/Cross-Genre Life Long Artist & direct descendant of Cochise

Raised in San Francisco/New Mexico/Apache/Oklahoma

STYLES: Psychedelic Stomp to Deep Traditional works

GENRES: Beadwork master, costuming, painter, installation and performance art, video, lyricist, composer, writer, performance artist, actress, singer, dancer, visual artist, perpetual student

MEMBER: Chiricahua Warm-Springs Nde' (Apache) Tribe of New Mexico, Theatre Movement International, Radical Medicine, Idle No More, Member/Curator Komotion Int'l SF, more...

TRAINING: Nde' ceremonies, several decades study and research in Chiricahua cultural aspects with Tribal Historian, Cultural Expert, Linguist & tribal member; Leland Michael Darrow, extensive private training in music, dance, arts & training with Nde' Grandmother Minnie Nicholas in writing, beadwork, painting and with mother Caroline and aunt & Mary Zurega in costuming, music appreciation and San Francisco 'Live Culture'

INFLUENCES/TEACHERS: diverse Bay Area culture, Leland Michael Darrow, Jill Parker, Rene Yanez, BadUnklSista, Rudradeep Chakrabarti, Charles Justin Hoover, Guillermo Gomez-Pena, Janeen Antione; American Indian Contemporary Arts Gallery, Black Panthers and their artist; Emory Douglas, American Indian Movement and Richard Oakes, AIM WEST; Tony Gonzales, La Pena, Standing Rock Red Warrior Camp, Pennie Opal Plant & Isabella Zizi; Idle No More, Upward Bound, Oakland Intertribal FreindshipHouse, Leonard Peltier, Alanon, Ceremony, David Solnit, Norm Sands, Annie Sprinkle, Malaquias Montoya, Juanita Barry, Phil Foss, Santa Fe Opera, Steven Paul Judd, American Indian Film Festival SF, BAAITS Powwow, First Nation/Indigenous culture and struggles far and wide, many more teachers and inspirations

BFA DEGREES: San Francisco Art Institute, California College of the Arts, College of Santa Fe, Institute of American Indian Arts

PRESENTATIONS: San Francisco International Arts Festival, Allan Houser Garden Gallery, Santa Fe, Studio 23, Alameda; Displacement Show, High Street Gallery London, DeYoung Museum, IAIA Museum, POWPOWPOW SF, REAL FACES interviews of 500 activists (YouTube), Playwriter/performer of "Homecoming" Chiricahua Nde' Apache Odyssey' and 'Haunting Our His&Herstories; Indigenous Children's Boarding School Experiences', Yerba Buena Gardens First Nation Festival, Berkeley World Music Festival, Ivy Room, Venice Biennale, Counter Pulse Theater, San Francisco Independent Arts Festival, United States Arts and Crafts Board, La Pena, Stork Club, Galeria de la Raza, San Francisco Art Institute, many more...

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c'22