



Contemporary Native American artist Kent Estey is an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation of Ojibwe in Northwestern Minnesota. Kent's lineage includes many self-taught artists where black-ash basketry, beading, birch-bark, and fiber artistry were everyday occurrences in his home. Kent's preferred art form is painting, with a preference for contemporary landscapes honoring the beauty of Northwestern Minnesota. His paintings also can reflect feelings and emotions through color and movement on the canvas. Kent says, "A lot of the time, the art happens by listening to my feelings. Then, the colors, movement, and elements fall into place, creating something beautiful and meaningful." Some of his most recent work incorporates rock, metal, and collage on canvas and board. Kent's work has been exhibited in Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Bemidji, Duluth, Austin, Grand Rapids, and other regional exhibitions and galleries in Minnesota. Kent has been an educator for most of his life, living and working in Naytahwaush, Minnesota. Kent recently received the 2023-24 Artist Fellowship for the Region 2 Arts Council.

Artist Statement

"I've always painted the land, sky, and water. My wife and I live in the woods, surrounded by the forest and the beautiful lakes of Northwestern Minnesota. Inspiration is pretty much everywhere I look. I consider myself a contemporary artist specializing in the sky and landscapes. My paintings are typically more nonrepresentational and abstract in nature. I love color and texture. I use a variety of mediums in my paintings, including acrylic, oil, and ink. Some of my most recent paintings feature stone, copper, and other metals. Earth tones inspire me with deep shades of blue, brown, and red. My inspiration comes from nature; my feelings and emotions are often expressed on canvas or board. Sometimes I paint the reflections I see in the water, or moments in time, dreams, feelings, and feelings of calm I see in the sunset or sky. Sometimes I use broad motions and movement in my pieces. I'll see this flash of light or color in the sky expressing a need to be painted. Following those instincts is my way of capturing and honoring my beautiful Ojibwe heritage."

