About the Artist



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 oils, acrylics, and inks.  His paintings reflect feelings and emotions through his use of color and movement on the canvas. Kent says, “a lot of the time, the art happens by listening to my feelings. The colors, movement, and elements fall into place, creating something beautiful and intimately meaningful.” Some of his most recent work incorporates rock, metal, and collage on canvas and board. Kent’s work has been exhibited in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Bemidji, Grand Rapids, Wahpeton, North Dakota, and other regional exhibitions and galleries in Minnesota. Kent has been an educator for most of his life, living and working in his hometown of Naytahwaush, Minnesota. He most recently served as the Anishinaabe liaison to the Region 2 Arts Board and a member of the Region 2 Anishinaabe 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, and often, my feelings and emotions are what is expressed on canvas and paper. I paint reflections and pieces of time, dreams, feelings, and calm. Sometimes I use broad motions and movement in my pieces. I see this flash of light or color in the sky expressing a need to be painted. When I follow those instincts, that’s my way of capturing and honoring my beautiful Ojibwe heritage.”