

Contemporary Multi-medium Anishinaabe 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 acrylic, oil, and ink paintings. Most often, the subject matter of his paintings is about land, sky, and water. His bold and bright colors reflect his feelings and emotions as he captures the beauty of his surroundings. "I paint what I see every day," says Kent. "It's all I know, and what I know best, so my paintings are about this piece of land, this sky, the colors and feelings as I walk through my gardens and gathering grounds of my family." Kent's work has been exhibited in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Bemidji, Grand Rapids, Wahpeton, North Dakota, Duluth, and other regional exhibitions and galleries in Minnesota. Kent has begun to curate exhibitions. Recently, he curated an emerging artist exhibition entitled Mazinaatebiishin: "It is Reflected in the Water, an emerging artist exhibition and "Naytahwaush: Faces, Stories, and Artists," featuring 40 artists from the village of Naytahwaush, Minnesota. Both were curated at the Gizhiigin Arts Incubator in Mahnomen, Minnesota. Kent was recently awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board Creative Support for Individuals grant, a financial gift from the Waterers Organization, and the Region 2 Arts Council Artist Fellowship for 2023-2024. He is a founding member and Board Chair of the Manoomin Arts Initiative, a non-profit organization devoted to promoting and activating artists on the White Earth reservation. Kent has been an educator for most of his life, living and working in Naytahwaush, Minnesota.