



Kent Estey, (*Bimose Noopiming-Walks Along in the Woods*) is a multi-medium Anishinaabe artist, author, and speaker, and an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation of Ojibwe in Northwestern Minnesota. Renowned for his bold and vibrant use of color in his art, Kent's artistic lineage is deeply rooted in traditions passed down through generations. From a young age, he was immersed in the world of black-ash basketry, beading, birch bark, and fiber artistry, which shaped his artistic journey. As a visual artist, Kent primarily employs acrylic, oil, and ink in his paintings. His subjects often revolve around land, sky, and water, reflecting his profound connection to his surroundings. Through his expressive use of color, Kent captures the beauty and emotions of his environment, painting what he sees daily. For Kent, his paintings serve as a testament to his knowledge and passion for his land, sky, and the colors and feelings he experiences while exploring his gardens. His work has been showcased across the region, from Duluth to Minneapolis and St. Paul, and galleries in North Dakota.

Kent, the curator, has curated exhibits that have received positive feedback. His "Naytahwaush: History, Artists, and Stories" exhibit, as well as the "Emerging Artists Exhibit," were well-received at the Gizhiigin Arts Incubator in Mahnomon, Minnesota. Recently, he concluded the curation of the Manoomin Arts Initiative's Takeover of the Red Door Gallery in Wahpeton, North Dakota. This winter, he served as a guest curator at the Watermark Art Center in Bemidji, Minnesota, where he curated a collection of 30 artists' work from his hometown of Naytahwaush, Minnesota. This exhibit, titled "Minwaajimowinan-Good Stories," showcases the diverse talents of the artists.

Kent's latest publication is a children's book titled "Picking Sweetgrass." This Native-written and illustrated children's picture book recounts a cherished childhood memory of Kent's grandmother, Ma, teaching him how to gather sweetgrass. On a bright Saturday morning, Kent escapes household chores to join his grandmother in the field, where she patiently guides him in identifying and picking the fragrant sweetgrass used in her black ash baskets.

Through Ma's meticulous instruction and loving presence, Kent gains practical knowledge and a deeper appreciation for her artistry and Ojibwe traditions.

Kent's artwork is currently on display at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) in Detroit, Michigan, as part of the Contemporary Anishinaabe Exhibit. This marks the DIA's first Anishinaabe exhibit in 30 years, and Kent's first national gallery show.

Kent has received several prestigious awards, including the 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. Additionally, he has been awarded the Anishinaabe Artist Fellowship for 2025-2026.

Throughout his life, Kent dedicated himself to the education of his community. He resides and works in his studio in Naytahwaush, Minnesota.