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For Immediate Release:

DESERT STORIES: THE ART OF KELLY FRYE & JAZMIN NOVAK TO OPEN AT THE INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER

Albuquerque, NM, June 11, 2024 —The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) is honored to announce *Desert Stories: The Art of Kelly Frye & Jazmin Novak*, an artist-led exhibition on view in the Artists Circle Gallery from July 19, 2024 through October 27, 2024.

Collaboratively curated by Kelly Frye (Tesuque Pueblo/Mescalero Apache descent) and Jazmin Novak (Diné) of the Santa Fe, New Mexico area, *Desert Stories* interweaves visual narratives of the Southwest in paintings, glass, clay, and bronze artworks. Bringing together two- and three-dimensional expressions creates an innovative take on the world of the Southwest desert as seen in the artists' reimaginings of geometric pottery designs and iconic brush-dwelling animals.

Frye and Novak approach the Southwest ecosystem through an art of reorganizing and repositioning familiar contexts that transforms these elements into new sites of meaning. Through their practices, they reveal that there is much more to consider about the visual landscape of the Southwest than what one might see at a glance. They give focus to how the past continues to influence the present and future of the desert landscape.

About these artists, Dr. Michelle Lanteri, IPCC Head Curator stated, "Frye and Novak use color as a method of disorientation. They make us see familiar Southwest elements in a completely different and unfamiliar light. In this way, they honor their Indigenous belonging in the region and remind viewers of the ongoing, deep narratives of this arid place."

Acoma

Cochiti

Isleta

Jemez

Laguna

Nambé

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

Pojoaque

Sandía

San Felipe

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

Zia

Zuni

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In Frye's paintings, she reorganizes fragments of geometric patterns into symphonies of color that melt into each other. Featuring Pueblo pottery designs in dramatic angles, her paintings reflect the ever-changing sunlight in the Southwest and its effect on our perception of the desert landscape around us. The narratives embedded in her artworks ask viewers to look further and to look again, as the world of the Southwest brings new understandings to every experience.

In Novak's sculpture, she uses asymmetry in her color palettes to give emphasis to certain parts of desert animals, like rabbits and coyotes. This method shifts the visual balance of these beings so that viewers reconsider their physical forms and their related stories. Novak creates scenes of desert wildlife that offer a window into the complexity of these animals' daily existence in the contemporary Southwest.

The Opening Reception for *Desert Stories: The Art of Kelly Frye & Jazmin Novak* will take place on Friday, July 19. The IPCC Member Preview will be held from 5-5:30pm with an exclusive Q&A with the artists, and the Public Reception, a free event, will follow from 5:30-7pm with an Artist Talk at 6pm. Public programs associated with the exhibition will be announced later this summer and posted on <https://indianpueblo.org/>.

About the Artists:

Kelly Frye (Tesuque Pueblo/Mescalero Apache descent)

Through her paintings and sculptures, Kelly Frye explores themes of historical trauma, including personal, communal, and global. Frye graduated with a BFA degree in Fine Arts from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. An enrolled member of Tesuque Pueblo, her art embodies her unique cultural background. She writes, "The soul and spirit of my work springs from my curious nature. This curiosity has led me to many adventures throughout my life. Self-discovery through the arts enables me to express a contemporary vision of my Indigenous world. I find limitless possibilities of expression in a combination of historical and personal narratives. These experiences have allowed me to explore different mediums, culminating in a passion for sculpture with casting metals and freedom of expression in abstract painting."

Jazmin Novak (Diné)

Jazmin Novak is a New Mexico-based sculpture artist. Her focus lies in creating sculptures influenced by the desert environment. Incorporating bronze, aluminum, iron, and glass, her work reflects the importance and beauty that the landscape holds. Novak believes connection to one another is imperative to our well-being and uses animal figures as narrative devices to communicate stories of connection, identity, and shared humanity.

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Tesuque
Zia
Zuni



Novak is a Diné artist born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Sculpture allows her to tell stories from an Indigenous perspective. Each work is informed by the process, allowing the piece and the narrative to grow together. Novak has exhibited her work in New Mexico at various museums and galleries as well as internationally and is the recipient of a 2023 Dreamstarter® Creatives award. Following her work with Meow Wolf and Walt Disney Imagineering, Novak is currently establishing her studio in Santa Fe, NM, while instructing courses at the Institute of American Indian Arts.

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About the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center:

Founded in 1976 by the 19 Pueblo tribes of New Mexico, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is a world-class museum and cultural center located in the historic 19 Pueblos District. The Mission of the IPCC Campus is to serve as a gathering place where Pueblo culture is celebrated through creative and cultural experiences while providing economic opportunities to Pueblo and local communities. Visitors can learn fascinating history, shop for Native jewelry and art, watch a cultural dance, hear Native languages and experience the flavors of traditional and contemporary Native cuisine. To learn more, please visit: www.indianpueblo.org and www.facebook.com/IndianPueblo.

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