

Melissa Melero-Moose Biography/Artist Statement

“My artworks consist of contemporary mixed media paintings that draw inspiration from the landscape and culture of the Numu (Northern Paiute) people who have lived in the Great Basin region of Nevada, California, and Oregon for thousands of years. To create these works, I intuitively layer organic objects, sand, acrylic washes, and mediums to convey the essence of life in this unique landscape. For the Numu people, willows, tules, cattails, and pine nuts are not just natural resources but essential parts of our culture, providing food, shelter, and materials for making artistic implements. I integrate these organic materials and cultural imagery into my artwork to offer a personal interpretation of the landscapes that have shaped my identity as a Native woman, mother, and artist.

Through my paintings, I aim to share the beauty of the Great Basin area and its rich cultural heritage with others. These works represent a personal collaboration of my cultural upbringing, individual artistic development, and curiosity about the world around me. By bringing together elements of my tribe and culture, I hope to create a visual narrative that speaks to the deep connections between people, nature, and art.”

Melissa Melero-Moose is a mixed-media visual artist, writer, and curator. She is a Northern Paiute enrolled with the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe with tribal ties to California and Oregon. She lives with her family in Northern Nevada. She works as a professional artist, contributing writer for *First American Art Magazine*, and founder/curator of the art collective the Great Basin Native Artists. Melissa holds a Bachelor of Fine Art from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and a Bachelor of Science from Portland State University in Oregon. She has received artist fellowships and grants from the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the Nevada Museum of Art, the School for Advanced Research, the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts, the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, and the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her works are a part of the permanent collections of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian; the Autry Museum of the American West; the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts; the Nevada Museum of Art; the Nevada State Museum; the School for Advanced Research, and the John and Geraldine Lilley Museum of Art.

Quote

“My work expresses our ancient Great Basin lands through color, texture, and found organic materials. I fuse them together to display my respect and admiration for my Numu (Paiute) culture and Teepu (our relative, the Earth).” - Melissa Melero-Moose