

BMoCA

NATANI NOTAH

**INNER
LINING**



Spring Exhibition 2022

Natani Notah: Inner Lining

March 3 – June 12, 2022

West Gallery

Natani Notah: Inner Lining

Interdisciplinary artist Natani Notah explores contemporary Native American identity through the lens of Diné womanhood. The artist's work is inspired by acts of decolonization and Indigenous feminism and aims to highlight and amplify Native representation. In her practice, Notah interlaces personal and familial memories with communal stories of loss and survival to promote understanding and respect across cultural divides. *Inner Lining* gathers multiple bodies of Notah's work that evoke conversation about resisting colonization in the present-day United States of America. Her works examine how Native American representation and cultural objects have been appropriated and commodified by American commercial interests.

Trained as a painter and printmaker, Notah has extended her practice into sculpture, installation, and performance in recent years. She follows a multidisciplinary approach as she pairs natural and synthetic materials, such as secondhand garments, consumer goods packaging, and faux fur, in unexpected, potent, and harmonizing ways. Notah integrates vastly different materials and techniques into one complete work through a process she describes as "meet, marry, mate." Her series of soft sculptures, for example, purposefully and thoughtfully pair, join, and cohabit multiple parts into a singular work. By intentionally combining a wide range of materials, Notah creates works that imagine decolonial futures, where an equal exchange of knowledge and perspective is embraced and used to build something new.

The title of the exhibition, *Inner Lining*, was shaped by Notah's exploration of both literal and metaphorical meanings of lines and linings. She continues to embrace the use of varied materials and explores the shape and form of the line as a subtle thread that ties the works on view together. For example, *The Emancipation of Mia* series features ink and watercolor dash marks and elongated lines on paper. In *Tangled*, Notah has knotted and stitched together used Native American themed t-shirts to create a rope-like construction that hangs in a long, singular line. Her soft sculptures made from worn secondhand clothing have sewn inner linings that provide strength, durability, and longevity.

Linings also remind Notah of a phrase she heard throughout her childhood, "every cloud has a silver lining." While this expression is meant to encourage positivity and optimism, it also evokes questions. What if that literal or metaphorical lining does not exist? How can a person inherently create one as a form of resistance? How can we break down the lines that divide us? This exhibition explores the lines dividing different cultures and the lines we draw for ourselves.



Above Image: Natani Notah, *Mia Loves Pac Man and Quail Eggs* (detail), 2021, ink, watercolor, graphite, and collage of digitally printed elements on archival paper. Courtesy of the artist.

About the Artist

Natani Notah is an interdisciplinary artist and a proud member of the Navajo Nation. Her current artistic practice explores contemporary Native American identity through the lens of Diné womanhood. Notah has exhibited her work at numerous institutions, including apexart, New York City; NXTHVN, New Haven, CT; Tucson Desert Art Museum, Tucson, AZ; Gas Gallery, Los Angeles; Mana Contemporary, Chicago; and SOMArts Cultural Center, San Francisco. She has received awards from Art Matters, International Sculpture Center, and the San Francisco Foundation. Her work has been featured in *Art in America*, *Hyperallergic*, *Forbes*, and *Sculpture Magazine*, and she has completed residencies at the Vermont Studio Center, Grounds for Sculpture, Headlands Center for the Arts, This Will Take Time, Oakland, and Kala Art Institute. Notah holds a BFA with a minor in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Cornell University and an MFA from Stanford University. She is currently a 2021-2023 Tulsa Artist Fellow.

Exhibition-related Programs

On-Site Opening Reception

Thursday, March 3

5pm member preview

6-8pm free public reception

Remarks by Curator Pamela Meadows, Exhibiting Artists, and Executive Director + Chief Curator David Dadone will occur throughout the evening.

Virtual Artist/Curator Talk: *Time*

April 7

5-6:30pm

Join BMOCA Curator Pamela Meadows in conversation via Zoom with the Spring 2022 Exhibiting Artists Natani Notah, Kevin Townsend and Erica Green as they discuss the inspiration and concept of the exhibitions and dive into the unifying theme of *Time* that influences all three of the exhibitions.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

3/

works by Kevin Townsend

March 3 – June 12

Erica Green: Once They Were Red

March 3 – June 12

InsideOut

El movimiento sigue (The movement continues)

March 23, 2021 – October 23, 2022

BMOCA at Macky

Natasha Mistry: Imaginearia

January 11, 2022 – May 1, 2022

Summer 2022

Sofie Ramos: Journey to a New World

June 23 – September 5, 2022

Grossly Affectionate

June 23 – September 5, 2022

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

Scintilla Foundation, Nicky Wolman & David Fulker, Sue Scheppe, City of Boulder, Boulder Arts Commission, Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, Colorado Creative Industries, National Endowment for the Arts, Splashlight Studio and Joan Markowitz.

Please Do Not Touch Works of Art

Flash Photography Not Permitted

Boulder Museum of
Contemporary Art

BMOCA

1750 13th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302
303.443.2122
BMOCA.org