

# Bockley Gallery

## *Frank Big Bear*

b. 1953

### **Fellowships and Awards**

- 2015 USA Knight Fellow, United States Artists, Chicago  
National Artist Fellowship, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, Vancouver WA
- 2013 Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant
- 2008 Bush Foundation, Enduring Vision Award, St. Paul
- 1998 Bush Foundation Fellowship, St. Paul
- 1992 McKnight Foundation Fellowship, Minneapolis
- 1986 Bush Foundation Fellowship, St. Paul
- 1982 Jerome Foundation Fellowship, Minneapolis

### **Special Projects**

- 2016-17 *The Walker Collage, Multiverse #10*, Walker Art Center commission for the Target Project Space
- 2003 *Detritus of the Light People*, mural created in collaboration with Star Wallowing Bull for the Plains Art Museum, Fargo ND
- 1994-98 *Dream Catcher Love Song*, Mayda Cortiella School, Brooklyn, The New York City Percent for Art Program

### **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2016 *Frank Big Bear: Nativia*, Bockley Gallery (Nov 11–Dec 31)
- 2014 *Frank Big Bear: Homage*, Bockley Gallery (May 15–June 14)
- 2012 *Skull Paintings: an Homage to Fritz Scholder*, Bockley Gallery (Feb 18–March 17)
- 2011 *Frank Big Bear Paintings: From the Rez, to the Hood, to the Lake*, curated by Heid Erdrich, All My Relations Gallery, Minneapolis (Jan 21–Feb 28)
- 2009 *Denizens of the Witch Tree*, Bockley Gallery
- 2008-11 *Drawings by Frank Big Bear: Waking Dreams/Reservations About Life*, organized by the Tweed Museum of Art, University of Minnesota, Duluth (Sep 30, 2008–Mar 22, 2009); traveling exhibition, color catalogue
- 2006 *Portraits*, Bockley Gallery (May 5–June 3)
- 2000 *Time Zones*, Giddens Learning Center Gallery, Hamline University, St. Paul MN
- 1998 *Dream Catcher Love Song*, (Mayda Cortiella School mural), Weinstein Gallery, Minneapolis
- 1997 *Time Zones*, Carleton College Art Gallery, Northfield MN  
The Jacobson Foundation, Norman OK
- 1996 Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery, Grand Marais MN
- 1994 *Out of the North: Frank Big Bear*, Institute of American Indian Arts Museum, Santa Fe
- 1992 *Works on Paper 1984-1991*, Two Rivers Gallery, Minneapolis American Indian Center

- 1991 Rochester Art Center, Rochester MN
- 1989 Bethel College and Seminary, St. Paul MN
- 1988 Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis
- 1987 North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks  
Plains Art Museum, Moorhead MN  
Bockley Gallery, New York
- 1986 Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis  
Bockley Gallery, New York
- 1985 Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis  
Bockley Gallery, New York
- 1984 Brems Gallery, St. Paul MN

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2022 *Images Unbound*, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines IA (Jun 25–Sep 25)  
*Art Speaks*, Minnesota History Center, St. Paul (Feb 26–Jul 31)
- 2020 *The Beginning of Everything: An Exhibition of Drawings*, Katherine E. Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (Jan 21–March 28)
- 2019-21 *Five Ways In: Themes from the Collection*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (Feb 14, 2019–Oct 3, 2021)
- 2019 *Transference: Printmakers in Mni Sota Makece*, Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Minneapolis (Sept 16–Oct 26)
- 2018-19 *Intersections*, Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth MN (Oct 16–Aug 19, 2019)  
*American Indian Artists: 20th Century Masters*, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City (Nov 6–May 12)
- 2015-17 *Arriving at Fresh Water: Contemporary Native Artists from Our Great Lakes*, curated by Jill Ahlberg Yohe, Minneapolis Institute of Arts (May 9, 2015–Feb 28, 2016); Plains Art Museum, Fargo ND (Oct 1, 2016–Jan 7, 2017)
- 2014-16 *Art at the Center: 75 Years of Walker Collections*, curated by Olga Viso and Joan Rothfuss, Walker Art Center (Oct 16, 2014–Dec 31, 2016)
- 2013-14 *Before and after the Horizon: Anishinaabe Artists of the Great Lakes*, curated by David Penney and Gerald McMaster, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, George Gustav Heye Center (Aug 3, 2013–June 15, 2014); Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (July 26, 2014–Dec 7, 2014), catalogue
- 2011 *The Human Touch: Selections from the RBC Wealth Management Collection*, Fresno Art Museum, Fresno CA (Feb 4–May 31); Museum of Fine Arts, Saint Petersburg FL (May 14–Sep 4)
- 2010 *Until Now: Collecting the New*, curated by Elizabeth Armstrong, Minneapolis Institute of Arts (April 16 – Aug 1)
- 2007 *New Dreaming: Frank Big Bear, Andrea Carlson, Star Wallowing Bull*, October Gallery, London UK
- 2003 *Paper Warriors: the Drawings of Frank Big Bear and Star Wallowing Bull*, Carl Gorman Museum, University of California, Davis (Sept 28–Dec 5)
- 2001 *Shared Passion: The Richard E. & Dorothy Rawlings Nelson Collection of American Indian Art*, Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth MN
- 2000 *Listening with the Heart: The Work of George Morrison, Frank Big Bear, and Norval Morrisseau*, Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis  
*Six Worldviews: Contemporary Native Artists of Minnesota: Frank Big Bear, Julie Buffalohead, Jim Denomie, Carl Gawboy, Carrie Ortiz*, Iowa State University, Ames

- The Shape of the Story*, Two Rivers Gallery, Minneapolis American Indian Center
- 1999 *The Red Millennium*, American Indian Contemporary Arts, San Francisco
- 1998-99 *Seasons of the Woodland's People*, American Indian Contemporary Arts, San Francisco; Institute of American Indian Arts Museum, Santa Fe
- 1993-94 *Six McKnight Artists*, MCAD Gallery, Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- 1992-94 *Enduring Strength*, Ernest Whiteman, Jeffrey Chapman, Frank Big Bear, Jane Ash Poitras, Gerald McMaster, Rebecca Belmore, Collen Cutschall, Truman Lowe, Camille Lacapa, David Bradley, Two Rivers Gallery and Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis; South Dakota Art Museum, Brookings; Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 1992 *Centered Margins: Contemporary Art of the Americas Toward A Post-Colonial Culture*, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green OH
- 1991-92 *Paper Dreams on Fire*, Bruce Anderson, David Baker, Frank Big Bear, Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program, Minneapolis Institute of Arts
- 1990-92 *Metaphorical Fish*, University Art Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- 1990 *Endangered: Visual Art by Men of Color*, Frank Big Bear, Sherman Fleming, Armando Gutierrez, George Longfish, Seitu Jones, Peter Williams, Edgar Heap of Birds, Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis
- Artists Conceptions: How We See Our Past*, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul
- 1990 *Frank Big Bear, George Morrison, Daniel Soderlind*, Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis
- 1989 *Heard Biennial*, Heard Museum, Phoenix
- 1988 *Traditions and Innovations- Seven American Artists*, Plains Art Museum, Moorhead MN; Two Rivers Gallery, American Indian Center, Minneapolis; Duluth Art Institute, Duluth MN
- 1987 Bockley Gallery, New York NY
- 1986 Bockley Gallery, New York NY
- 1985 *Homecomings: Native American Artists*, North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks
- Jewels of the Desert*, Philadelphia Museum of Art
- 1983 Gallery 10, New York NY  
MoMA PS1, Long Island City NY

## Selected Bibliography

- Taylor Payer. "Native Youth to Give Voice to Frank Big Bear's New Work." *Walker Reader*. Feb 1, 2017
- Misa Jeffereis. "Universes Collide: Frank Big Bear on *The Walker Collage*, Multiverse #10." *Walker Reader*. Dec 12, 2016
- Euan Kerr. "From artist Frank Big Bear, the Walker gets a multiverse." *MPRnews*. Nov 29, 2016
- Sheila Regan. "Frank Big Bear signs homages with his art." *City Pages*, May 19, 2014
- Robert Silberman. "Complexity and Contradiction in Native American Surrealism." *Journal of Surrealism and the America* 7:1 (2013), 108-130
- David Penney and Gerald McMaster. *Before and after the Horizon: Anishinaabe Artists of the Great Lakes*. National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution. 2013
- McMaster, Gerald. "The Anishinaabe Artistic Consciousness." *Before and After the Horizon: Anishinaabe Artists of the Great Lakes*, Washington DC: Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, 2013. Exhibition catalogue
- Mary Abbe. "Art: Colorful work by Frank Big Bear inaugurates new American Indian gallery." *Star Tribune*. Aug 17, 2012
- Jim Benz. "Denizens of the Witch Tree: New works by Frank Big Bear at Bockley Gallery." *Minneapolis Contemporary Art Examiner*. Oct 15, 2009
- Stephanie Xenos. "Dreaming Big." *MSP Magazine*. January 2009: 298-299, 337

Doug Hanson. "Dimensions of the Artist." Tweed Museum of Art, University of Minnesota, Duluth. 2008. Exhibition catalogue

Deborah Everett and Elayne Zorn. *Encyclopedia of Native American Artists*. Westport CT: Greenwood Press. 2008: 17–19

Ann Klefstad. "The Prolific Vision of Frank Big Bear." *MN Artists*. Nov 10, 2008

Laura Shackelford. "Maps and Legends." *CityPages*. September 7, 1994

Lucy Lippard. *Mixed Blessings: New Art in Multicultural America*. New York: Pantheon. 1990

Heard Museum. *Fourth Native American Fine Arts Invitational*. Pheonix: Heard Museum Publications. 1989

David Wooley. "Tradition and Innovation," exhibition catalogue. Plains Art Museum. 1988

Jean Fischer. "Frank Bigbear, Jr at Bockley Gallery, New York." *Artforum*. May 1987

### **Selected Public Collections**

The British Museum, London

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville AR

Denver Art Museum

Des Moines Art Center, IA

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Minnesota History Center, St. Paul

Minnesota Museum of American Art, St. Paul

Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, Kansas

North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks

Plains Art Museum, Fargo ND

RBC Wealth Management Collection

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington DC

Tia Collection, Santa Fe NM

Tweed Museum of Art, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Walker Art Center

Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis