

Bockley Gallery



Star WallowingBull: Mapping and (Meta)Morphing

Exhibition: March 23 through April 27, 2024

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 23, 5 to 7 PM

Bockley Gallery is pleased to welcome Star WallowingBull (Ojibwe and Arapaho) for his sixth solo exhibition with the gallery. Through vivid and intricate colored-pencil drawings and acrylic paintings, WallowingBull explores intersections of Indigeneity and United States pop culture. In this, he conceptually and playfully exposes and overrides colonial mechanisms of control.

With *Mapping and (Meta)Morphing*, WallowingBull spans medium and scale, and warps and wraps spatial and temporal orientation to refuse the calcified borders that attempt to constrain place, memory, and the ever-spinning web of belonging. Flattening the visual plane to create porous imagery, he creates capacious vessels that become amenable to carrying and playing with the weight of thematic encounters. Saturated with pop culture references, industry emblems, and iconography imbued with meaning from his own life, he forges convergent spaces to tell history and prophecy. Rather than shying from the complexities of futuristic envisionings of Native worlds, he problematizes the sterilized cleaving of Native peoples from the extraterrestrial, the otherworldly - rejecting not only terra nullius, but *cosmic* nullius. Here, it is clear: Native peoples populate the before, the right now, and the after, in this universe and the next.

Star WallowingBull's work has been included in group exhibitions at numerous venues including the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC; the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto; Minneapolis Institute of Art; and October Gallery in London; among others. His institutional solo exhibitions include *Transformer*, Plains Art Museum, Fargo, North Dakota (2016) and *Mechanistic Renderings*, Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Sante Fe, New Mexico (2015). WallowingBull has received numerous fellowships and awards including

the Jerome Fellowship, Jerome Foundation, Minneapolis Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Regional Artist Fellowship, Bush Artist Fellowship, and Native Artist Fellowship, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Notable public collections include the British Museum, the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, the Tweed Museum of Art, the Plains Art Museum, and the Weisman Art Museum.

WallowingBull is an enrolled member of the White Earth Band of Chippewa. He was raised in the Twin Cities and is now based in Fargo, North Dakota.

The exhibition text and forthcoming essay, “Cruising a Wormhole: When Minnegasco Met Red Owl” by Carmen Petit will be available on the gallery website soon.

Please contact Bockley Gallery at 612.377.4669 for more information or press.

Image: *Mechanized Chariot of the Gods*, 2022, color pencil on paper, 13.5 x 11 inches