



FRACTAL LINEAGE

Daniel Nez

February 11 – April 15, 2023

First, take a look at *Fractal Lineage by Daniel Nez* either at Vision Gallery or [online](#).

What do you notice about the artwork?

Daniel Nez,
White World



You may have noticed the fragmented pieces of the painting suspended in the large loom structure look like they piece together.

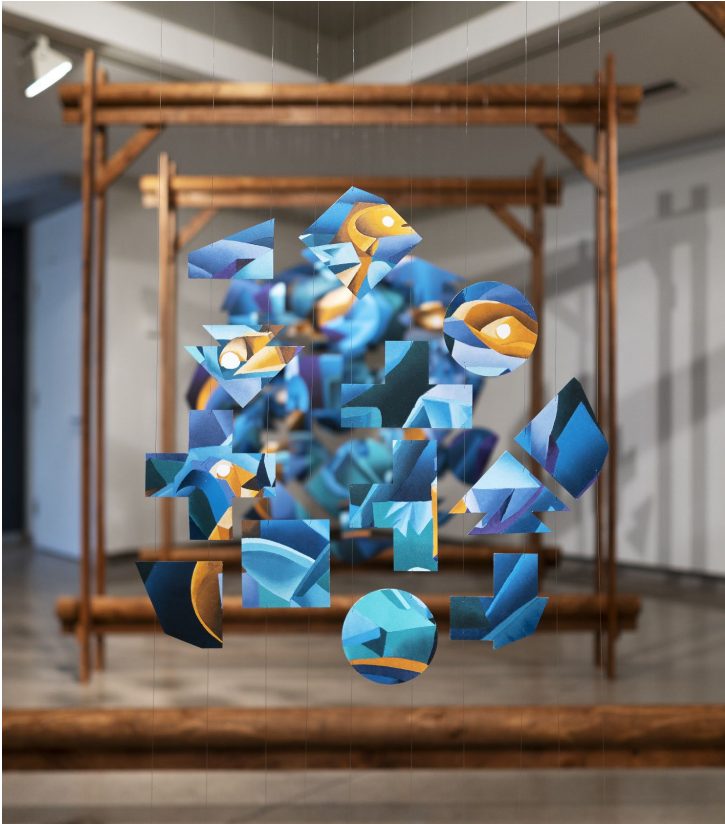
To see all the pieces create a full picture, you have to change your vantage point until the components align.

Do you see it now?

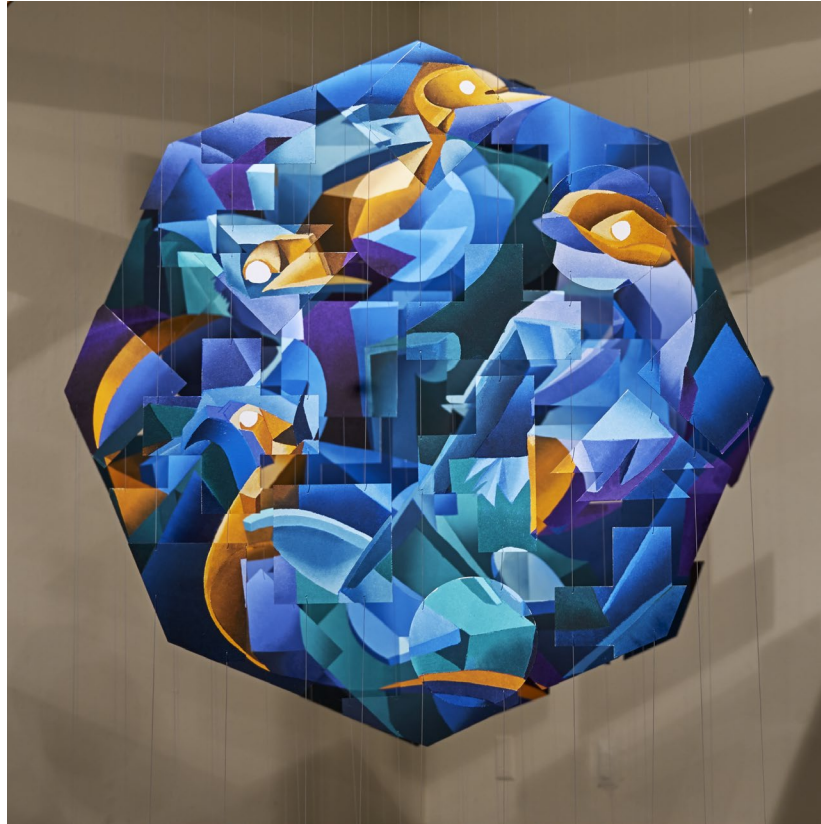
Daniel Nez,
White World



WHAT DOES THIS REPRESENT?



Daniel Nez,
Blue World



These deconstructed paintings represent the stories told by Diné elders about the history of their people

As these stories have been passed down from generation to generation, they have become fragmented

Exploring the paintings until viewers reach a vantage point where all the components align to create the full picture reflects Daniel Nez's own exploration of his ancestry

WHAT IS THE STORY OF THE FOUR WORLDS?

Each of the pieces on display in *Fractal Lineage* are derived from the story of the Four Worlds

The story of the Four Worlds describes the Diné (Navajo) story of creation, detailing how the world we know today came to be

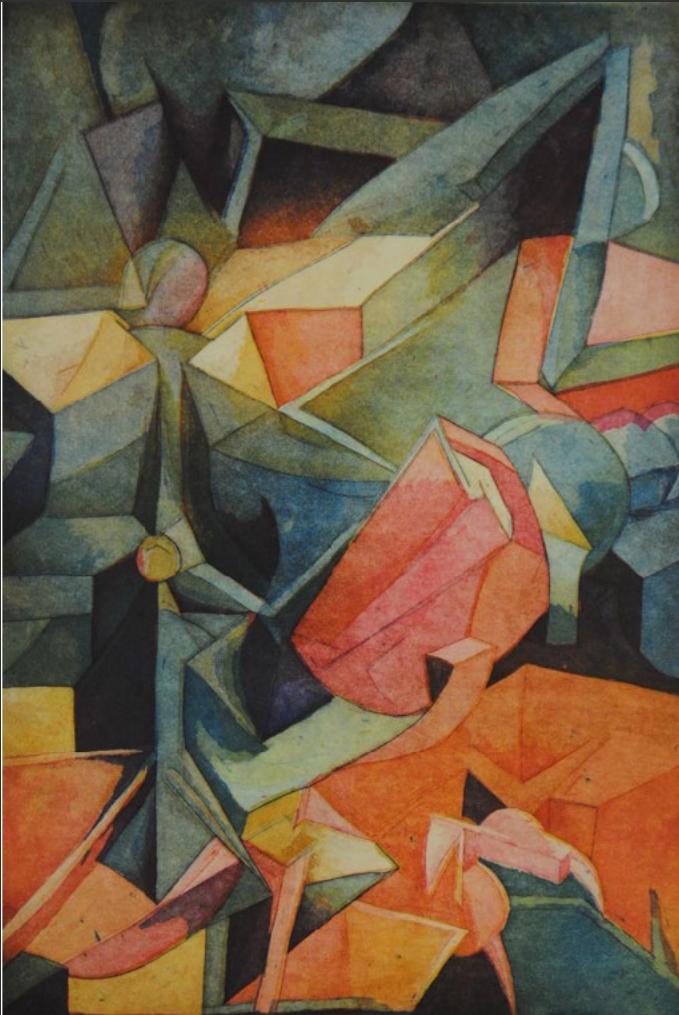
Read on for a summary of the story...

Daniel Nez,
Creation of Hashtl'ishnii
(Mud Clan)



FIRST WORLD

BLACK WORLD



Daniel Nez,
First World

The First World was where everything started.

There were no people present as we know them today, but rather they were the Air Spirited People.

This First World was filled with the presence of what we now call insects. Ants, Beetles, Grasshoppers, and Dragonflies are a few examples of the people that inhabited this world.

This world was not as large as the world we live in today. That being so, they began to argue. It was this fighting that had destroyed this world and they escaped by traveling upward until they have entered a whole new world...

SECOND WORLD

BLUE WORLD

The insects had reached the Second World, larger than their own and filled with other creatures. They were greeted by Blue Feather Beings, which we now know as birds.

Blue Jays, Hawks, Falcons, and Swallows are just a few that lived in this Second World. These two bands of people lived peacefully for a while, but just as in the First World, they began to bicker.

Adultery and arguments had caused this world to, once again, crumble, forcing the Air Spirited People and Blue Feather Beings to flee upward, until reaching the Third World...

Daniel Nez,
Second World



THIRD WORLD

YELLOW WORLD



The Third World, now larger than the two first worlds, contained even larger beings. It was inhabited by two-legged creatures and four-legged creatures such as, Coyote, Turkeys, Mountain Lions, and Deer.

These lands were different than the first two. They were not only larger, but also contained sacred mountains in each of the cardinal directions.

But unlike the first two worlds, it was not fighting that would destroy this world, but a great flood.

It was Coyote who caused this flood. He had stolen Water Monster's babies. Enraged, Water Monster floods the land. Everyone escapes this world once again to the next...

Daniel Nez,
Yellow World

FOURTH WORLD

WHITE WORLD

The Fourth World is the world we now live in.

It is populated not only by insects, birds, and four-legged creatures, but also humanity.

It is here that the creation of the different clans came to be. It is here that many other stories take place.

For instance, the story of the Twin Warriors and their journey to the Sun is depicted behind and above the figures in *White World*.

Daniel Nez,
White World





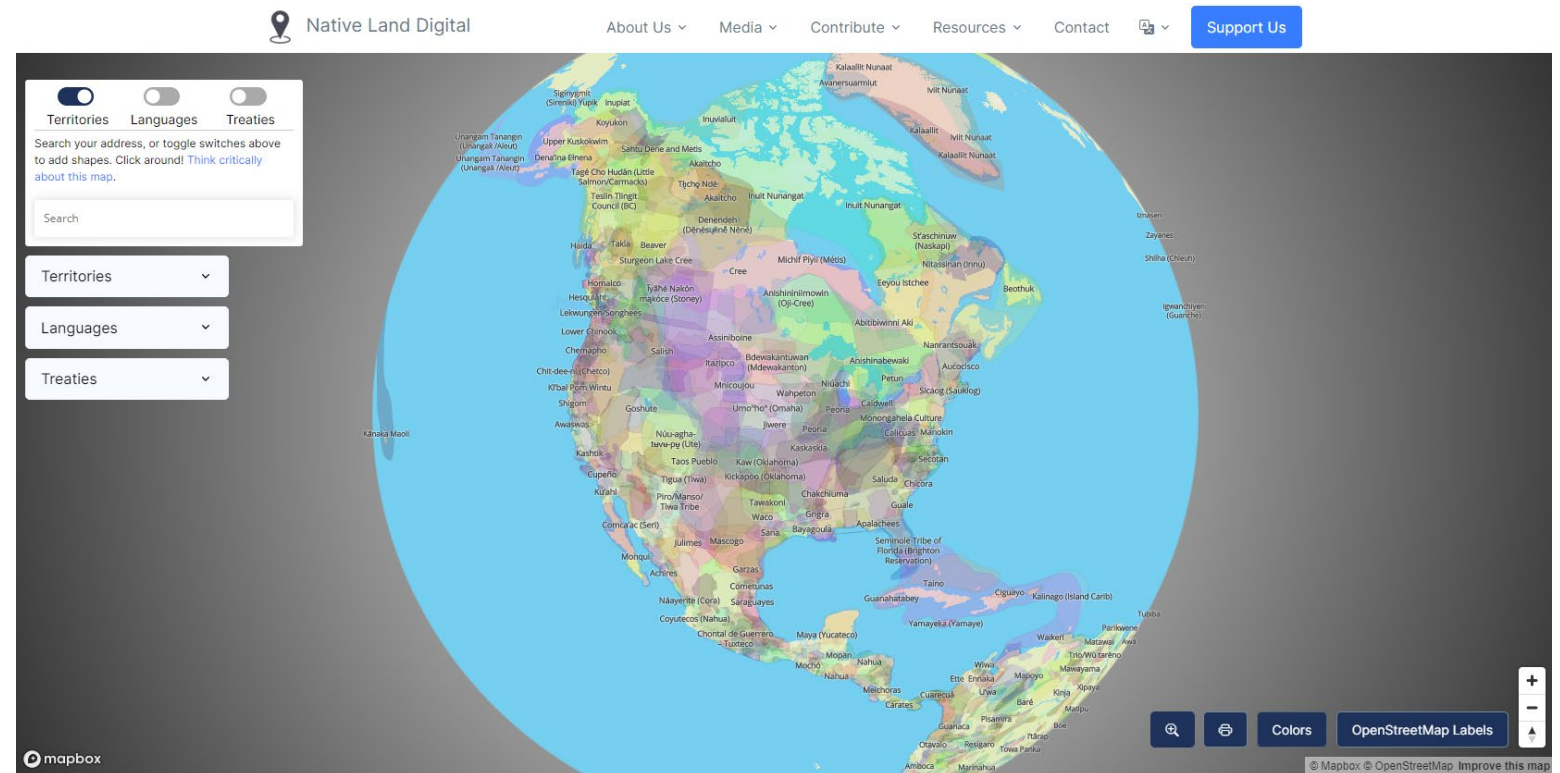
**Now that you know the story, do
you better understand the
imagery in Daniel's pieces?**

Learn more about other artists inspired by
Diné Culture and view other educational
resources on the following slides!

Daniel Nez,
Naayéé' Neizghání
(*Monster Slayer*)

Native Land Digital

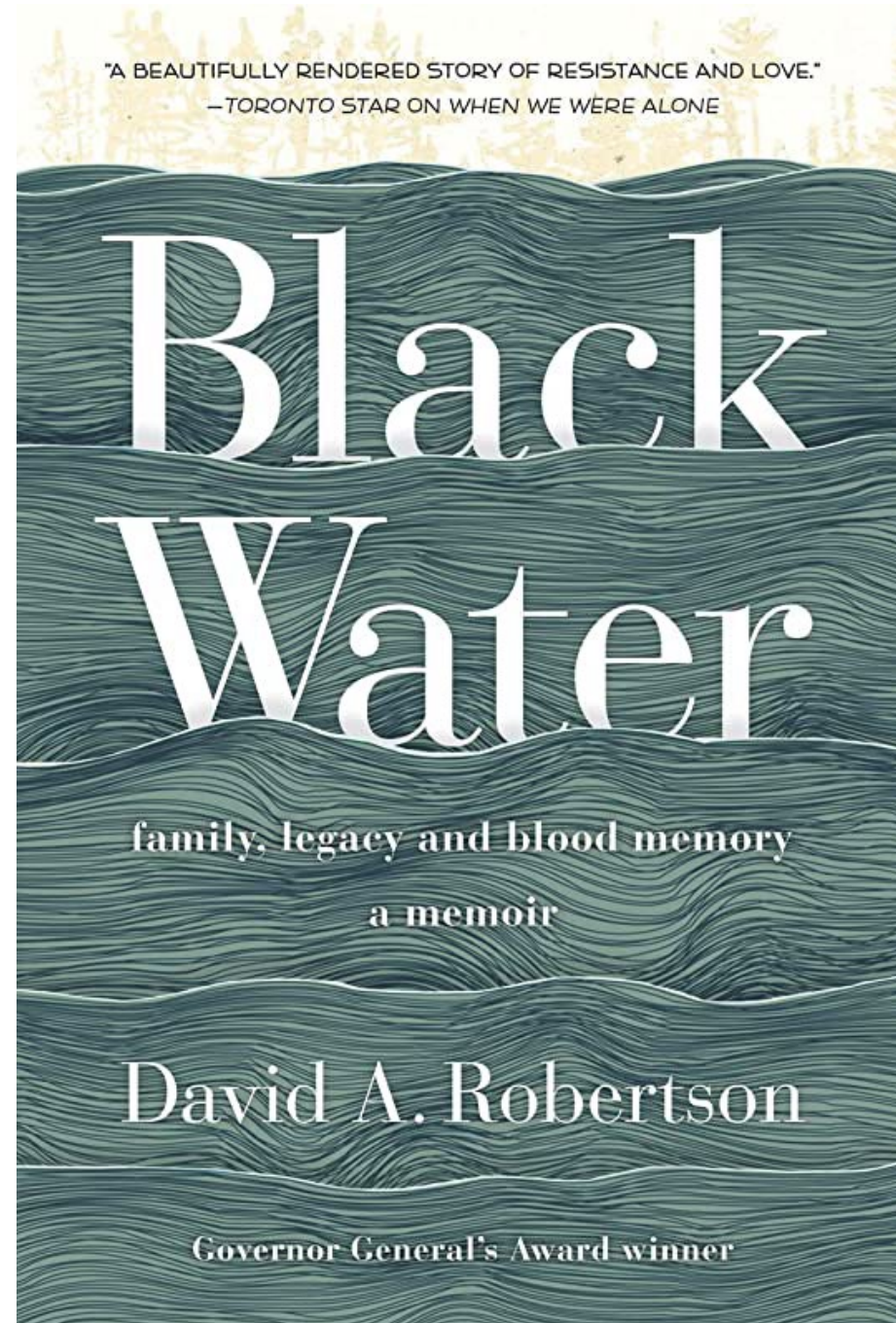
<https://native-land.ca/>



Black Water

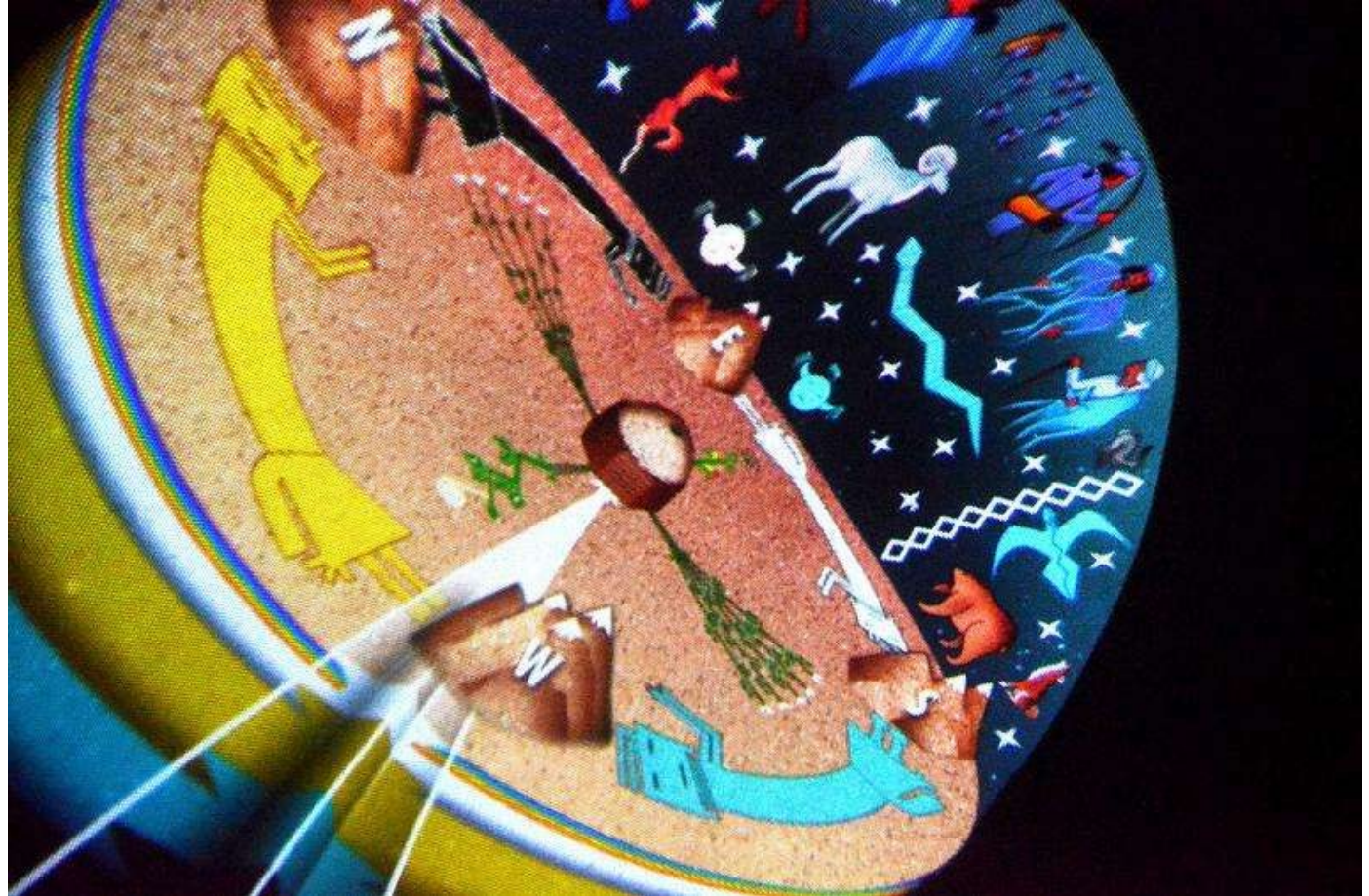
Family, legacy, and blood memory

[Learn more](#)



Four Worlds: The Dine Story of Creation

[Read more](#)



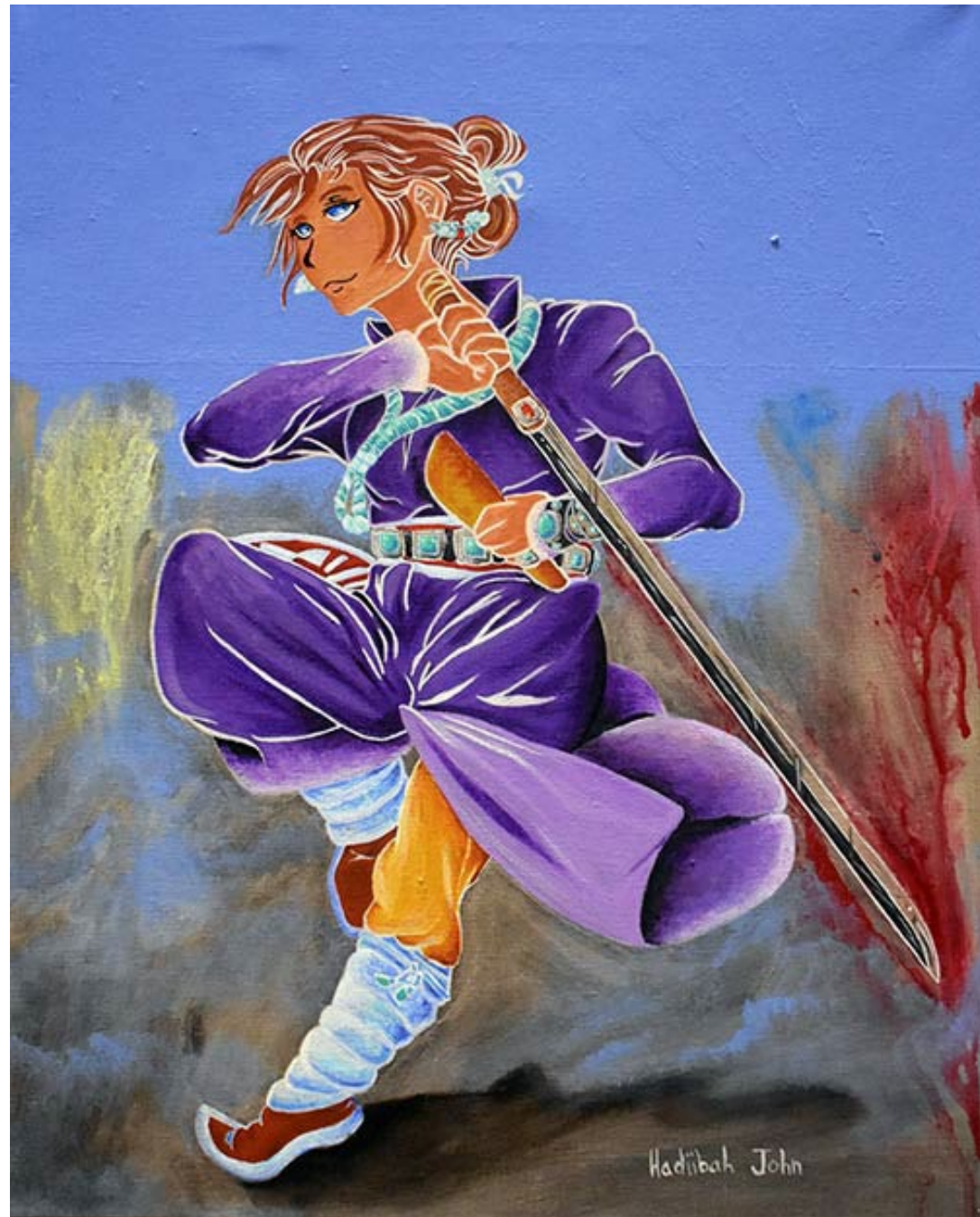
Tony Abeyta

[Learn more](#)



Hadiibah John

[Learn more](#)



navajopeople.org

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Navajo People - The Diné

Here you will learn all about the Navajo People, the Dine , and about Bikeyah, or Navajoland.



- Home
- Navajo News
- Navajo Pictures
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- Navajo Rugs
- Navajo Nation
- Navajo Language
- Navajo Jewelry
- Navajo History
- Navajo Code Talker
- Navajo Pottery
- Navajo Culture
- Navajo Legends
- Hogan's
- Sand Painting
- Navajo Food
- Navajo Clothing

Yá'át'ééh! Welcome

This site is dedicated to keeping alive the culture, traditions, and beliefs of the **Diné** (Navajo People) also referred to as **Navajo "Indians"** a name not used or liked by the People. The Navajo prefer to be called the **"Diné"** meaning **"The People"** or **"Children of the Holy People"**.

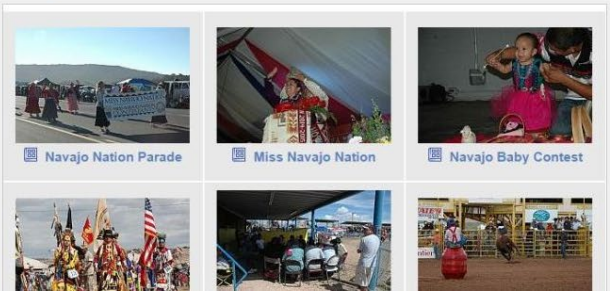
You will also find information on Navajo Art, Language, History, Culture, Jewelry, Sand Painting, Rugs, Code Talkers, the Long Navajo Walk and many other subjects.The use of the word **"Navaho"**, and , **"Navajo"** are both used on this site.

See why in this article: [Use and spelling Navaho or Navajo](#)

New!:

Navajo Nation Fair for 2022
September 4-11, 2022
Window Rock, AZ

Navajo Nation Fair Photos



We Support



Navajo Arts and Crafts Enterprise



About Us:

Content for this site is provided by **Clayton Long**, Navajo Language Curriculum Designer and Harold Carey Jr, a Navajo Historian and Photojournalist from Malad City, Idaho.

The visuals displayed in *Fractal Lineage* are Daniel's personal depictions of the Four Worlds, a story that has been told for generations.

Verbally sharing this story over time is sort of like a game of "Telephone" where some details can change or even be lost. This leads to a diverse understanding of the same story.

**HOW HAS THIS EXHIBIT INFLUENCED YOUR
UNDERSTANDING OF DINÉ CULTURE?**

**THE GALLERY
AT CCA**