



PRESS RELEASE

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Institute of American Indian Arts
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The Paa'a (water) Series by Melissa Melero NEW WORKS FEATURED IN IAIA MUSEUM STORE EXHIBITION

**who: Melissa Melero
what: Paintings
when: Through May 14
where: IAIA Museum Store
cost: Free**

Mixed media paintings inspired by ancient petroglyph recordings found on the Northern Paiute (Numu) reservation lands in west-central Nevada are featured in the latest body of work by Santa Fe artist Melissa Melero (Northern Paiute).

These new paintings, which the artist has titled The Paa'a (water) Series, are strongly influenced by the natural beauty of Melero's ancestral homeland. "I paint in colors that remind me of home because I am a traveler. Blue-greens for Lake Tahoe and Pyramid Lake, dark yellows and whites for the dried plants, hills and sand. And reds and black for the intense sunsets silhouetted by the mountains in the distance from the Valley," she says.

A graduate of both Portland State University and the Institute of American Indian Arts, Melero's works have been featured in exhibitions at the Heard Museum (Phoenix), Modo Gallery (NYC), Nevada State Museum, Gallery 299 (Portland) and Zimmerman Gallery (Reno).

The IAIA Museum in downtown Santa Fe is the premier exhibiting institution for contemporary Native and Indigenous art from across North America. The Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development (IAIA) is a Congressionally chartered, multi-Tribal center of higher education dedicated to the preservation, study, creative application and contemporary expression of American Indian and Alaska Native arts and cultures. IAIA achieves its mission through programs of higher education and outreach to students, Tribal communities and the public. IAIA is committed to quality education programs and an individual-centric approach that enrich career opportunities for students.

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