



CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENT

September 18, 2007

Institute of American Indian Arts
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...end of *WHAT* trail? Juried Exhibition Deconstructs a Wild West Myth Sculptor James Earle Fraser's Mistake

what: ...end of *WHAT* trail?

what: Work by more than a dozen Native artists across North America

where: Primitive Edge Gallery, IAIA Campus, 83 Avan Nu Po Road

when: Mon., Oct. 1 to Thu., Nov 1. Opening Reception 5- 7pm Oct.1

cost: Free

Iconic images, whether they appear on the glossy pages of national magazines or end up reproduced in art journals and museum exhibition catalogs, provide the casual viewer with an intellectual shortcut. By leveraging memory and emotion, the message communicated through an icon's mere presence has the potential to gather hundreds of disconnected thoughts and recollections into a single, powerful whole.

Try it yourself. Conjure up an image of the World Trade Center's twin towers before their destruction. Consider President Nixon flashing the peace sign on the day of his resignation, or a WW II image of a Nazi swastika flag.

To the sensibilities of many American Indian people, the iconic image of a slumped Indian male figure atop an even more slumped horse is more than just a sculpture. Seen through their eyes, this defining work by James Earle Fraser serves as an icon that communicates the mistaken impression that American Indian people were defeated, or even worse, they were headed toward extinction.

A new exhibition at IAIA's on-campus exhibition space, Primitive Edge, takes a straightforward look at Fraser's "End of the Trail" sculpture, examining the work itself as well as its iconic impact in the minds of Native viewers as well as non-Native viewers. This juried show includes paintings, sculpture, collage, photography and installations.

Co-curators Jessie Ryker-Crawford (IAIA Museum Studies instructor) and Audrey Dreaver (IAIA student) are available for interviews.

Attached Images: "The End of Our Trail", Marty Two Bulls Sr., maquette, barbed wire.

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The Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development (IAIA) is a 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. Located at 83 Avan Nu Po Road on a modern, 140-acre campus approximately ten miles south of downtown Santa Fe, IAIA serves its full-time and part-time students through programs in contemporary and traditional studio arts, creative writing, Indigenous liberal studies, museum studies, and new media arts. Established in 1962 by Congress, IAIA includes the Center for Arts and Cultural Studies, IAIA Museum, and the Achein Center for Lifelong Education, Research & Cultural Exchange. As an accredited, degree granting college, IAIA awards both four-year Bachelors degrees and two-year Associates degrees. For directions to IAIA's campus visit www.iaia.edu or call the Campus Information Line at 505-424-2300.