

Chelsea Bighorn

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Education

- 2024 MFA School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Fiber and Material Studies,
- 2021 BFA Institute of American Indian Arts, Studio Arts major
- 2017 AA Mesa Community College, Associates in Art and General Studies

Exhibition History

- 2024 **Graduate Exhibition Two**, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2024 **EXPO Chicago**, Chicago, IL
- 2023 **Native Futures**, Center for Native Futures, Chicago, IL
- 2023 **Fiber Freaks**, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2023 **A Space Remains**, SITE Galleries, Chicago, IL
- 2023 **IMPRINT: Weaving American Indian Stories**, Arts HQ Gallery, Surprise, AZ
- 2022 **Chelsea Bighorn** (solo show), Satin I Reichman Memorial Art Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
- 2022 **SITE Scholars**, SITE Santa Fe Museum, Santa Fe, NM
- 2022 **FIRST: Native American Arizona Artists**, Scottsdale Civic Center Public Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
- 2021 **We Went Wild: BFA Exhibition** -Juried show, Museum of Contemporary Native Art, Santa Fe, NM
- 2021 **Reemergence: BFA Show** – Institute of American Indian Arts Balzar Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
- 2021 **Monochromatic Rainbow**, Joesphe Arnoux/Chelsea Bighorn, Vital Spaces, Santa Fe, NM
- 2017 **InFlux AZ**, Public art installation, Scottsdale Pavilions, Scottsdale, Az

Residencies

- 2024-26 Chicago Artist Coalition Residency
- 2024 Saguaro National Parks Residency
- 2024 Penland School of Craft, Winter residency in paper making

Awards

- 2023 AICAD Fellow Nominee
- 2023 Penland School of Craft Fellowship
- 2021 SITE Scholar, SITE Santa Fe
- 2020-24 Fort Peck Higher Education Scholarship

Lectures/Presentations

- 2024 Artist Talk, The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

- 2024 Artist Talk, Center for Native Futures
- 2023 Guest Speaker, Identities class, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2023 “Fringe”, Graduate lecture, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2023 “From Cans to Cones”, Graduate lecture, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2021 Museum of Contemporary Native Arts Artist Panel, Santa Fe, NM

Publications

- 2024 **Big Blend Radio**, “Chelsea Bighorn in Saguaro National Park”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5l5Kkpx-HHg>
- 2024 **F News Magazine**, “I Hope We Feel Like This Forever-ever,” May Issue, pg 6
https://fnewsmagazine.com/backissues/#flipbook-issue_2024_05_May/
- 2023 **Forbes**, “Center for Native Futures Gallery Opening in Chicago”
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/chaddscott/2023/09/12/center-for-native-futures-gallery-opening-in-chicago/?sh=7b304d75740e>
- 2023 **Sixty Inches from Center**, “Native Futures: An Artist Led Gallery Reclaiming Indigeneity”
<https://sixtyinchesfromcenter.org/native-futures-an-artist-led-gallery-reclaiming-indigeneity/>
- 2023 **Art Design Chicago**, “Native Futures”
<https://artdesignchicago.org/event/native-futures/>
- 2022 **Phoenix Home and Garden Magazine**, October/November Issue
- 2021 **Institute of American Indian Arts Anthology**
<https://anthology.iaia.edu/chelsea-bighorn/>

Work Experience

- 2022-23 Teachers Assistant at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 - Kate Smith, Sculptural Basketweaving (Spring '24)
 - Andrea Peterson, Natural Papermaking (Summer '23)
 - Amy Yoes, 3D Screens: Print into Sculpture (Fall '22 and '23)
- 2021-22 Journey Home Internship with artist Erica Lord, Santa Fe, NM
- 2021 Mural Assistant to Crystal Worl, Juneau, AK

Bio

Chelsea Bighorn was born and raised in Tempe, Arizona, her tribal affiliations are the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux tribes from Montana and the Shoshone-Paiute from Northern Nevada. Bighorn's work is the result of her combining traditional Native American design with elements from her Irish American heritage. Using this process, she tells her personal history through her art. Bighorn has shown her work at the Museum of Contemporary Native Art, SITE Santa Fe, The Balzar Gallery and The Center for Native Futures. She graduated with honors from The Institute of American Indian Arts in 2021 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Arts. Bighorn currently resides in Chicago, Illinois where she is attending the School of The Art Institute of Chicago working on her Master of Fine Arts in Fiber and Material Studies.

My practice is very much based on process and slow making. I believe that with the help of this residency I would be allowed the luxury of time. Time to further examine and create work that speaks to the language of embellishment on powwow regalia. I want to spend my time at this residency to really examine traditional Native American and how I can relate that to my surroundings. I hope to find a deeper connection in my work to the landscapes that I live in. This residency will allow me to make these land and regalia connect in a way that I haven't had the opportunity to before.

Figure 1: *Vertebrae*, Canvas, MX dye, glass beads, brass embellishment, artificial sinew, 105 1/4" x 68", 2023



Figure 2: Vertebrae detail



Figure 3: *Black Fringe*, canvas, MX dye, beads, 84" x 36", 2023



Figure 4: *Black Fringe*, detail



Figure 5: *Untitled (Blue Fringe)*, canvas, MX dye, beads, brass sequins, 70" x 103", 2023



Figure 6: Untitled (Blue Fringe) detail



Figure 7: *Untitled (Brown Fringe)*, canvas, MX dye, natural dye, buffalo hair yarn, beads, 120" x 23" dimensions variable, 2024



Figure 8: Untitled (Brown Fringe) detail



Figure 9: *Emerald Cut ver.1*, hand cut paper and acrylic paint, 9" x 4 3/4" x 1", 2022



Figure 10: **Marquise Cut**, hand cut paper and acrylic paint, 20" x 11" x 1 1/4", 2022

