



## Contemporary Indigenous Artists of Montana

By Shane Doyle

Dear Montana student,

Thank you for choosing to learn more about the Native American people of our state. This lesson will introduce you to some of Montana's best artists who also happen to be Native Americans. Artistic expression is a strong part of Native American cultures, and the tribal communities of Montana continue to produce world-class art, whether it be beadwork and quillwork, singing and dancing, or painting and writing. The artists who are listed below are just a few of my favorites out of many in our state. Each is a great representative of his/her tribal nation's tradition of creative excellence. Take a few minutes to learn about each artist and explore that person's brilliant work; afterwards, do some reflective thinking about what you have learned. Please note the directions below regarding where to find each artist's portfolio and products on website. However, you should also explore the other portions of their websites as well to learn more about them as people and as tribal members.

[Wendy Red Star \(Crow\)](#) (review Apsáalooke Feminist and Portfolio tabs)

[John Isaiah Pepion \(Blackfeet\)](#) (review each product type under Shop tab)

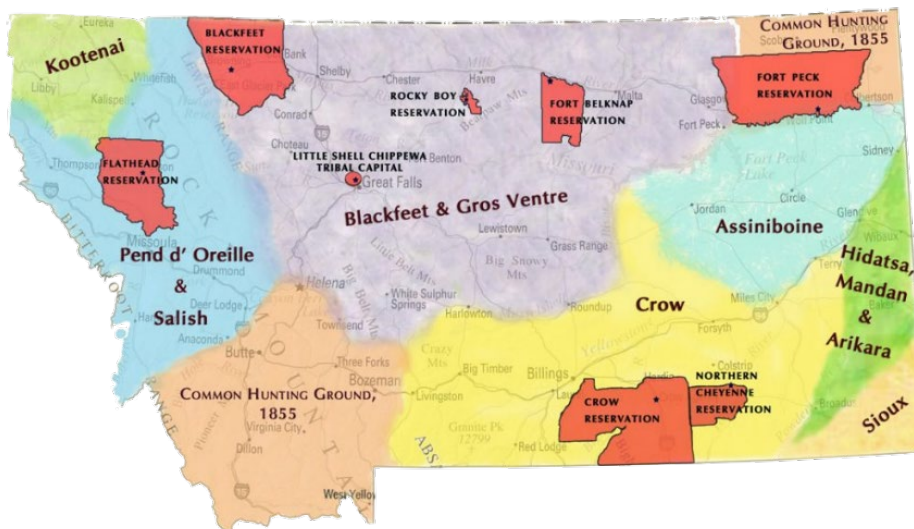
[Bethany Yellowtail \(Crow/Cheyenne\)](#) (select Shop tab and then All tab)

[Jaune Quick to See Smith \(Salish\)](#) (review Selected Paintings tab)

[Mandy Smoker Broaddus \(Assiniboine/Sioux\)](#) (watch YouTube video of reading of two poems)

[Christian Parrish aka Supaman \(Crow\)](#) (review playlists under Videos and My Songs tabs)

You can identify the artists' home reservations on the map below:



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Some brilliant contemporary artwork is being produced by Indigenous people of Montana. Please consider the questions below and answer them in the space provided.

- 1) Which of the artists did you most enjoy learning about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What are two-three things you learned about contemporary American Indian cultures by reviewing and listening to the work of these artists?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What needs do you think art fulfills in American Indian and other cultures?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) What are some of the messages the artists are making with their work?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) What type of art do you enjoy and how do you feel it reflects your identity?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) If you could write a short message to one of the artists you reviewed, what would you say to that person and why?

Dr. Shane Doyle is an educational consultant and member of the Apsaalooké (Crow) Nation. His Apsaalooké name means Old Buffalo Bull, and he lives in Bozeman with his wife, Megkian, and their five children.