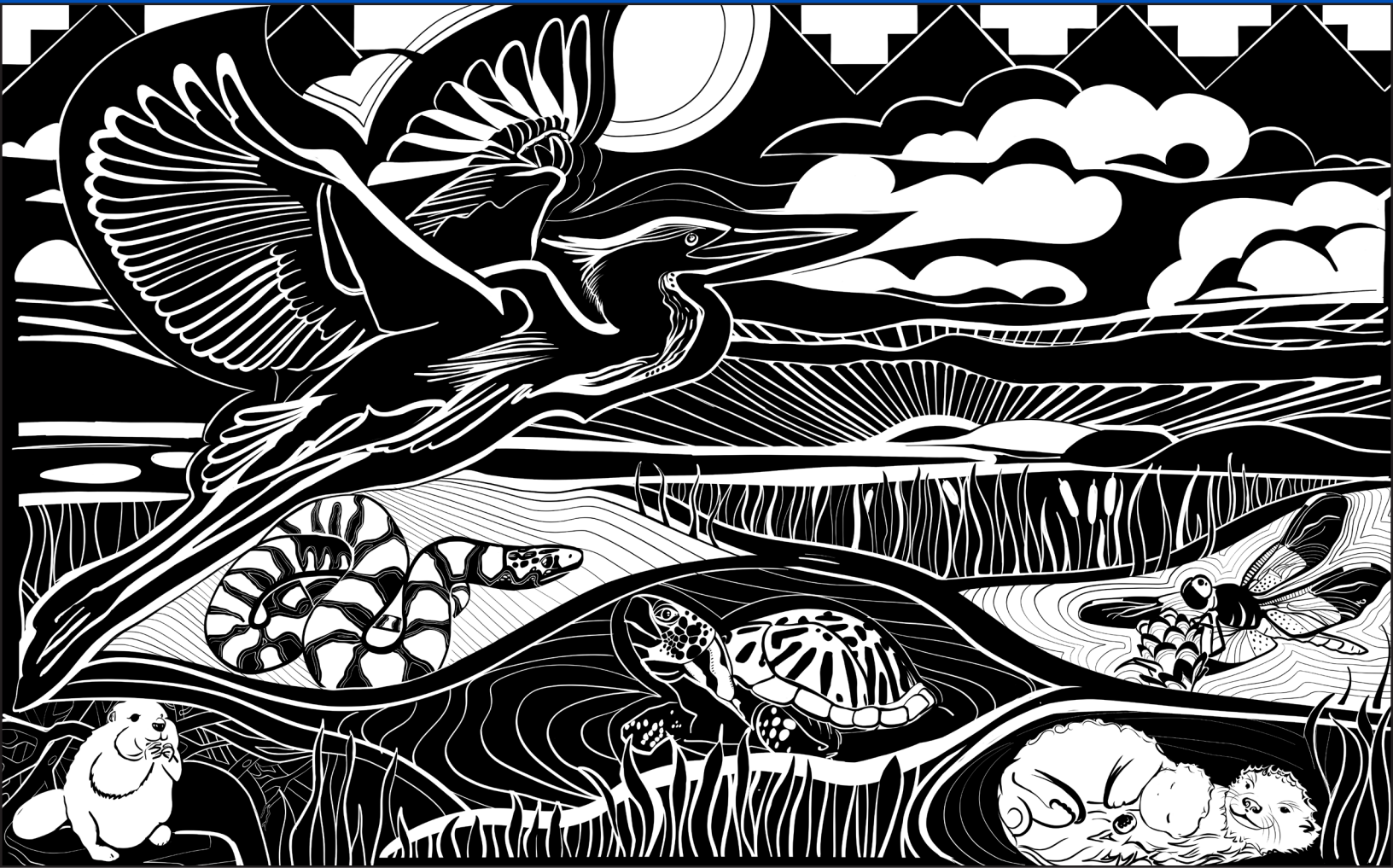
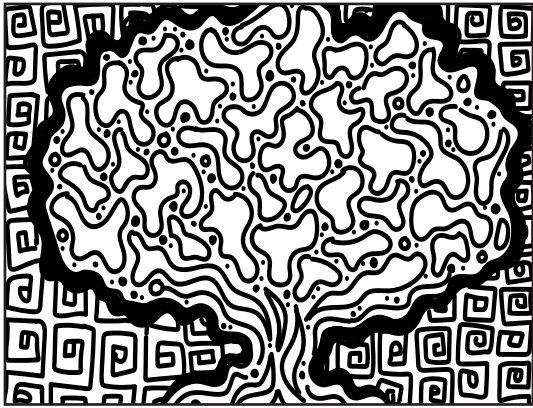


Artist Statements

2023 Bus Shelter Art Installation



Learn about the 6 Indigenous artists whose artwork enhances 10 bus shelters in Lawrence, Kansas. In partnership with the Indigenous Community Center, with funding from the Douglas County Community Foundation.



Tree N A

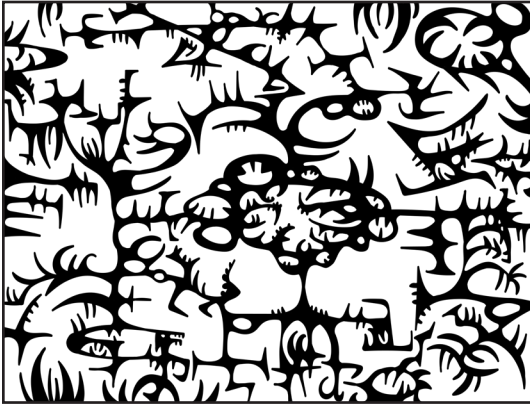
Aubrey Anne Bell is a 19-year-old member of the Cherokee Nation living in Kansas City, Missouri. “Art craft is something I’ve always done throughout my life, and it’s one of the most intimate relationships I have. I chose not to go to college and instead am spending my time on alternative creative journeys. My advice for people is to always start out making art for yourself. If you make art for other people then your personal style will never be formed. If you can’t make art for yourself, you can’t make it for other people. Also, making art is about the process and not necessarily about the end result.”

Tree N A

The inspiration for this piece was my deep love for patterns and the wisdom trees hold. If you are ever feeling anxious look at how peaceful trees are even in a storm. They are never anxious to get somewhere else. They only focus on being in that moment watching the squirrels chase each other, bending gently in the wind, feeling everything grow ever so slowly stretching up into the sky. They also hold the universal pattern in their branches and roots as everything comes into one at the base and extending out into everything.

Instagram: [@aubrey.a.bell](https://www.instagram.com/aubrey.a.bell) - [@crazy_goblin_art_by_aubrey](https://www.instagram.com/crazy_goblin_art_by_aubrey)





Waste Cave Story

Zoe Bell is member of the Cherokee Nation and a local mixed media artist and musician. They focus on creating works of art that reflect capitalist waste applying the concept “west waste.” They incorporate wasted materials into their artist expressions as both a tool for re-purpose and metaphor for post-capitalist futility and disconnection from the natural world.

They believe that nature and creation are the most powerful sources in life and should be honored through art and music. They seek to bring awareness to capitalist waste and its effects on the environment through their abstract works of art, along with inciting questions and conversations about our capitalist world. They hope to make people see things for what they are: complex and meaningful. Zoe believes that art is something bigger than us all. Zoe believes when creating art The Creator works through us, as a painter using a paintbrush. “When I make art and music, I let what created me and my ability to create work through me. All of my art has many different meanings. I like to let the observer decide what it means to them. Creation is sacred and art to me is worship. Through my art I hope to honor nature and the powers that exist all around and inside me.”

Waste Cave Story

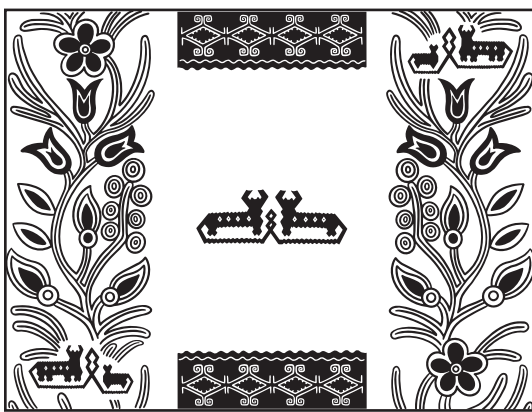
This piece is titled “Waste Cave Story.” It’s inspired by Native American cave paintings from long ago. I really love the fluidity of the cave stories and how different images come together to form something sacred and meaningful. The simplistic style being equally complex and meaningful inspired me to create my own abstract story. The story to me is a prayer to nature and to the connecting force within all life. I chose to not illustrate any realistic images so that the observer can take their own meaning from the piece, whether that be just a feeling or a thought. Any meaning can be the right meaning for the individual experience. This piece is very special to me and has been a way for me to further connect with my Cherokee ancestors and to honor their ancient ways of art and storytelling, in an abstract way.

Instagram: [@rizzorat](https://www.instagram.com/rizzorat)

Iris Cliff (they/them) is an Assiniboine, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, non-binary illustrator based in Lawrence, Kansas. In Iris's process, everything starts with a pencil. From that point on, all planning and decisions in creating a digital piece echo the framework they learned from beadwork and regalia making. Placing the anchor points of a vector outline reminds Iris of tacking down beads with their mother. As with traditional work, Iris's digital illustrations focus on storytelling. The message can be simple or complex, thought-provoking or rooted in channeling emotions.

Iris's most recognized illustrations are illustrations of a frog, a turtle, buffalo, and a cat that are now prints, t-shirts, stickers, enamel pins, and even tattoo tickets. You might have seen their work at the downtown stationary shop Wonder Fair, The Raven Book Store, or in the entrance of the Lawrence Arts Center.

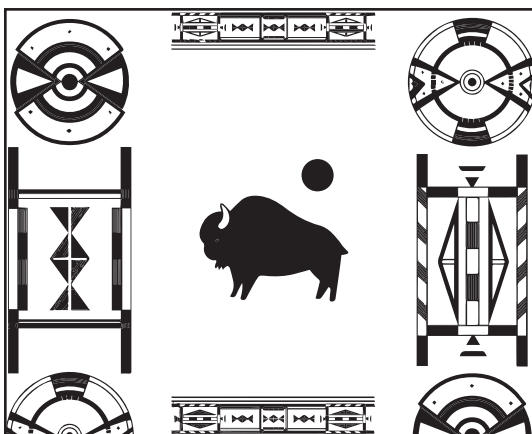
Mishibizhii



Mishibizhii

An underwater panther, called Mishibizhii in Ojibwemowin, is a powerful water being that lives near the Great Lake region. Like many great beings, they hold many names, stories, rituals, and inspire art. The underwater panther takes on different forms and meanings to Indigenous people: to some the underwater panther is a protector; to others, the underwater panther is an evil-horned serpent. I love Mishibizhii. They're a cool and powerful cat. In this illustration, I invite you to honor and celebrate Mishibizhii. I draw flowers as an offering and show the tender side of the big yellow furball. Their tails dance around one another with love and power and welcome guests to take a seat or stand beside them while they wait to continue their journey.

The White Buffalo



The White Buffalo

The white buffalo is a sacred and gentle spirit. In the Great Plains, many Indigenous nations share stories, songs, and rituals about the white buffalo. Before European colonists arrived and altered the lives of Indigenous people, Indigenous people in the Midwest relied on the buffalo for food and clothing to shelter. This relationship with the buffalo was overhauled by genocidal policies and practices of colonization, in response the white buffalo's symbolism was enhanced. The white buffalo became a message of sacredness and resilience. Today, Indigenous people are reconnecting, restoring, and preserving the prairie that the buffalo roamed peacefully before settler colonialism. Less than 1,000 buffalo remained after the mass slaughter of nearly 30 million buffalo by the 1900s. Now buffalo can be found on specialized farms or roaming free within parks such as Yellowstone National Park and Kansas on private land and in state parks like Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. In this illustration, I honor the white buffalo by drawing a baby buffalo. The moon shines on the young calf, surrounded by Assiniboine geometric work that represents: strength, growth, and the connection to the stars.

Website: www.iriscliff.com - Instagram: [@irisncliff](https://www.instagram.com/irisncliff)





Dear Deer

Mona Cliff/ HanukGahNee (Aaniiih) is a multidisciplinary visual artist. Seedbead beadwork & sewing applique have been a primary foundation of her artist practice. Her art also focuses on how traditional arts are passed down between generations of women, thus influencing culture. Mona pursues the concepts of generational knowledge while exploring other topics such as native futurism and identity.

She recently concluded a commissioned installation for the Kansas City Museum, where she is incorporating seed beads as a way to work in harmony and honor nature's forms. Her art is currently in the Women to Watch exhibition at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. She is currently working on a commissioned beaded piece spanning 17 feet for the Kansas City Airport Terminal's 1% for the arts program. Mona is married and has 3 children ages 12, 13 and 15 years old. She currently resides in Lawrence, Kansas. Mona Cliff is an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre tribe (A'aninin/Nakota Nations) she is Frozen Clan (Aaniiih) and of the of Ft. Belknap, MT.

Artist statement



Baker Wetlands Wildlife

My practice traverses traditional indigenous knowledge systems. In learning the teachings of the past and applying them to my practice, I aim to explore how Indigenous art/knowledge connects our understanding of our unique place in the universe. I pose questions of how we understand our connections to those which surround us. Continuous cultural evolution is of particular interest to me.

Generational knowledge connects me to my past, helps me find meaning in my presence as I look towards the future. As I create art through these traditional art practices, I feel connected to my ancestors. Through meditation, and spiritual material imbue ment of my art, this brings me a sense of bringing power back into my own being.

Interweaving these various types of crafts, I want to create a new visual language. A language which preserves tradition and creates a discourse that has people question their own preconceptions of native american art and craft.

Website: www.monacliff.com



Tokeya Waci U (Comes Dancing First)

Richardson is a member of the Oglala Lakota and Haliwa-Saponi tribes. His inspiration comes from the old teachings from childhood stories that he either read in books or learned from his elders. He recreates a modern style of Native American Ledger art and traditionally uses its main purpose of having a visual reference to reflect the stories and teachings that would've been taught orally. He does this in hopes to heal the spirit of those who are lost and are looking for clarity or empowerment to overcome their past/traumas because art is powerful when used with a purpose and utilizing the morals of stories we hear as children help us regain our footing as adults.



Less' Riide!

Artist Statement

The inspiration of these images come from dance styles that tell stories of feats within battles, the understanding of honoring all living things, and seizing the opportunity of a better day.

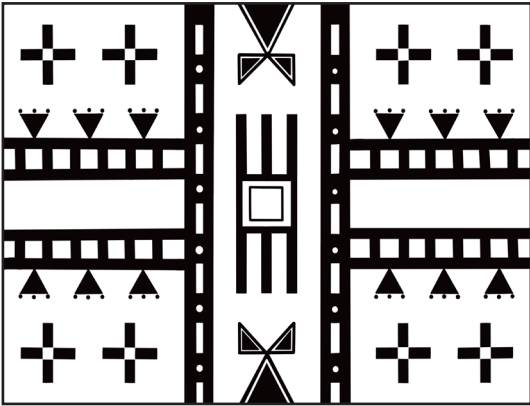
Website: www.coupcountdesignz.com

Facebook: [Coup Count Designz](https://www.facebook.com/Coup_Count_Designz)

Instagram: [@coup_count.designz](https://www.instagram.com/@coup_count.designz)



The Sky's Awake



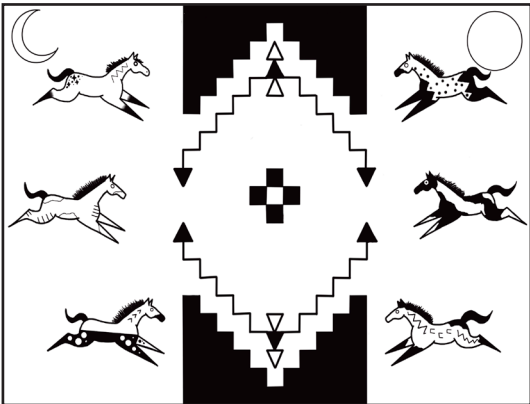
**Wogligleya
(Design)**

Odessa Star Comes Out is Oglala Lakota from South Dakota, but currently lives in Lawrence, Kansas. She likes to do art as a hobby. Odessa mainly does acrylic paintings and has some experience with digital illustration. She does not do any type of particular art because she likes to experiment with different styles.

Artist Statement

These art pieces are inspired by Lakota Ledger art and designs.

Instagram: [@starrdessa](https://www.instagram.com/starrdessa)



**Sunkawakan
(Horses)**



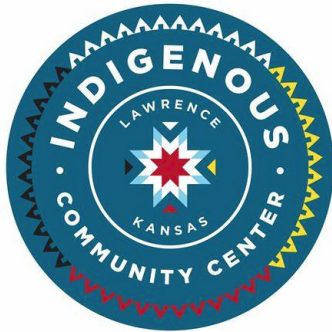
Thank you to our partners, the Indigenous Community Center and the Douglas County Community Foundation.



Lawrence Transit

Together, the City of Lawrence and University of Kansas will provide safe, convenient, affordable, reliable and responsive public transportation services to enhance the social, economic and environmental well-being of the community.

For information about Lawrence Transit, visit lawrencetransit.org



Indigenous Community Center

Our mission is to identify and support the needs and goals of the Lawrence Indigenous community through education and empowerment. (adopted April 2021)

For information about the Indigenous Community Center, visit www.indigenouscommunitycenter.com



Douglas
County
Community
Foundation

Douglas County Community Foundation

Our mission is to enrich the quality of life in the communities of Douglas County by: 1) Building philanthropic resources and relationships; 2) Providing attractive options for donors to make philanthropic contributions; 3) Being a catalyst for the betterment of the lives of the citizens of Douglas County.

For information about the Douglas County Community Foundation, visit www.dccfoundation.org

