

Michael Kabotie



Rain/Eagle Chant 1997
Acrylic on Canvas - 22"x 28"
Idyllwild Arts Foundation

Artistic Emphasis

Michael Kabotie (1942– present) is a Hopi painter whose iconographic paintings are based on icons from his ancient culture.

Throughout time, art has been a way of telling a story without using words – a way of communicating. All communication is based on symbols – words, pictures, all are symbols for things and concepts. In many ancient cultures, this communication relied heavily on pictographs – easily recognizable, standardized symbols. In some cultures, these pictographs were codified and became the basis for the written language. Modern Chinese is made up of thousands of characters, each based on ancient pictographs. The Hopi culture is also rich with symbols. Michael Kabotie uses these ancient symbols and vibrant colors to create fresh, modern artwork.

Project Description

Students learn about Hopi symbols and a new technique, crayon resist. They use crayons and watercolors to make a picture using Native American symbols.

Advance Preparation

- Schedule a date with your teacher. Remember to check the on-line calendar for conflicts first. _____
- One week prior to your date, check the Fine Arts supply room to make sure all the supplies are in the cabinet.
- The volunteer making the presentation should read through the handbook, located in the Fine Arts supply room, and become familiar with the project narrative and visuals.
- Ask your teacher about arranging for a place for the completed pictures to dry.
- Recommended number of volunteers: 3