LOCATION
The Marion and Wayland H. Cato Jr. Center for the Arts
College of Charleston
161 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401
halsey.cofc.edu

PARKING
Available in the St. Philip St. and George St. garages

GALLERY HOURS
During exhibitions
Monday-Saturday, 11:00 AM–4:00 PM
Open until 7:00 PM on Thursdays
Free admission!

CONTACT
(843) 953-4422 or halsey@cofc.edu

BLOG
Learn more about the exhibition at halsey.cofc.edu/learn

MISSION
The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts provides a multidisciplinary laboratory for the production, presentation, interpretation, and dissemination of ideas by innovative visual artists from around the world. As a non-collecting museum, we create meaningful interactions between adventurous artists and diverse communities within a context that emphasizes the historical, social, and cultural importance of the art of our time.

Dyani White Hawk: Hear Her
is sponsored by SC Humanities, a not-for-profit organization, inspiring, engaging, and enriching South Carolinians with programs on literature, history, culture, and heritage. This exhibition is also supported by the Center for Sustainable Development at the College of Charleston, which provides students with the opportunities and resources to engage in our community sustainably.

MEMBER PREVIEW DAY
Thursday, January 13, 11:00 AM–7:00 PM
Free for all Halsey Institute Members

OPENING RECEPTION
Friday, January 14, 6:30-8:00 PM

ARTIST TALK WITH DYANI WHITE HAWK
Saturday, January 15, 2:00 PM

SIT A SPELL CONVERSATION SERIES
Wednesday, January 26, 12:00 PM

MEMBERSHIP MORNINGS
WITH COUNTER CULTURE COFFEE
Friday, February 11, 9:00-11:00 AM
Free for all Halsey Institute Members

CURATOR-LED TOUR FOR MEMBERS
Thursday, February 24, 7:00 PM
Free for all Halsey Institute Members

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art recognizes and acknowledges that our museum spaces are on the lands of the Edisto Natchez-Kusso and Yamassee Indigenous communities. We have a responsibility to acknowledge that the College of Charleston and its buildings were built on Indigenous land with enslaved labor. These lands were the traditional territories of these Native Nations prior to their forced removal and continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their contemporary struggles for survival and identity. Today, this place is still home to many Indigenous people from across the world. It is our responsibility as College of Charleston community members and residents of the Charleston area to recognize the ever-present systemic inequities that stem directly from past wrongdoings and the ongoing process of colonization and commit ourselves indefinitely to respecting and reconciling this long history of injustice.

ABOUT DYANI WHITE HAWK
Dyani White Hawk (Sičáŋǧu Lakota) is a visual artist and independent curator based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. White Hawk earned an MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2011) and BFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico (2008). She served as Gallery Director and Curator for the All My Relations Gallery in Minneapolis from 2011-2015.


DYANI WHITE HAWK
HEAR HER
January 14 - February 26, 2022

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HEAR HER

by Bryan Granger

Dyani White Hawk’s work illuminates the lived experiences of Native Peoples. With her video, photography, and works in other media, she aims to use the language of visual art to bring light to the deep chasm between our understanding of history and the truth. Her work weaves together forms from the canon of Western art along with the visual languages and traditions of Native Peoples. In doing so, her work spotlights Native women, whose strength and fortitude throughout centuries of colonization have helped their peoples’ languages and cultures survive.

On view in Hear Her, White Hawk’s video installation LISTEN presents a series of Native women speaking their Indigenous languages. Each film takes place on tribal homelands, and viewers hear the respective languages without translation. As such, White Hawk puts a focus not only on the resonance of each speaker, but she also reveals society’s collective ignorance of the Indigenous people, culture, and languages of the land on which we live. Chapter 1 of LISTEN features eight videos, and White Hawk plans to continue the series to include 24 videos. For this presentation of Hear Her, the Halsey Institute commissioned White Hawk to create a video to honor the Catawba Nation, located in South Carolina.

Together with filmmaker Razelle Benally (Oglala Lakota/Diné), White Hawk films each woman speaking freely in each iteration of LISTEN. No guidelines on what to speak about are given, and the artist works with each speaker to determine where footage is taken. Accompanying these women are meditative shots of the land. Brilliant vistas are shot by Hawk films each woman speaking freely in each iteration of LISTEN. Together with filmmaker Razelle Benally (Oglala Lakota/Diné), White Hawk films each woman speaking freely in each iteration of LISTEN. Together with filmmaker Razelle Benally (Oglala Lakota/Diné), White Hawk plans to continue the series to include 24 videos. For this presentation of Hear Her, the Halsey Institute commissioned White Hawk to create a video to honor the Catawba Nation, located in South Carolina.

In the galleries, the audio for each video is focused to a narrow area, requiring viewers to walk up to each work, engaging with it directly. As a visitor moves through the gallery, the experience is akin to walking the streets of a large cosmopolitan city and hearing a variety of languages spoken. The distinction here, though, demonstrates the tremendous division and lack of knowledge between the greater American public, and Indigenous People. Unlike languages such as German, French, Spanish, and English, the languages presented in this installation will more often than not be unfamiliar to viewers. This reality serves as an experiential illustration of the ways that Indigenous languages, cultures, and people have been systematically ignored in public education and mainstream media. Sadly, many Indigenous languages are at risk, with the passing of elderly first language speakers, the task of retaining languages becomes increasingly challenging.

White Hawk’s photography installation I Am Your Relative confronts the gross stereotypes and distorted caricatures that dehumanize and commodify Native women. The installation, a collaboration with photographer Tom Jones (Ho-Chunk), consists of six life-size photographic prints located in the middle of a gallery, rather than on the walls. The works are double-sided; the front side shows Native women wearing shirts that read: “I am / More than your desire / More than your fantasy / More than a mascot / Ancestral love prayer sacrifice / Your relative.” On the back side of the work, the tribal affiliation of each woman is printed across her shirt, signifying the importance of her life within her community, and beyond.

In moving the photographs off the gallery walls into the middle of the space, White Hawk emphasizes the humanity of the women photographed. Visitors are forced to move around them in the gallery, as if the women were standing side-by-side in the gallery themselves. About the installation, White Hawk states: “The whole concept of I Am Your Relative is rooted in Lakota philosophy and understanding of our relatedness. It’s a guiding value of how we treat one another and all life.” In Hear Her, White Hawk’s work elevates the lived experiences of Native Peoples while reinforcing the fact that we are all connected as human beings.

Bryan Granger is Director of Exhibitions and Public Programming at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art.

NOTES

IMAGE CREDITS:
- this side, top left: LISTEN (Quechan) [still], 2020; center, top: LISTEN (Dakota) [still], 2020; center, bottom: LISTEN (Dakota) [still], 2020; above, top: LISTEN (Diné) [still], 2020; above, bottom: LISTEN (Diné) [still], 2020. Reverse side, top left: LISTEN (Diné) [still], 2020. All LISTEN works by Dyani White Hawk in collaboration with cinematomographer Razelle Benally. Part of a multi-channel HD video installation with sound.
- Cover panel: Dyani White Hawk in collaboration with photographer Tom Jones, I Am Your Relative (detail), 2020, photo-sculpture © Dyani White Hawk. All works © Dyani White Hawk and courtesy of the artist and Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis.