

# Cover Artist Stacy Lopez: All Hands in For Mother Earth

By IngriQue Salt

Stacy Lopez, an 18 years old Tohono O'odham from Little Tucson, Arizona, currently attends the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is artistically inspired by her mother and mentor, an instructor for building and construction technologies at Tohono O'odham Community College.

When asked about the story behind her artwork, Ms. Lopez responded, "The different colors represent different races and how all of us want to make a better planet. If we work together anything can be accomplished." The primary colors blue, red and yellow create a variety of beautiful pigments when mixed together that is a reflection of Stacy's artistic perspective.

Ms. Lopez uses the relationships between humans and nature to describe this edition's cover art. Her message is, "We can let nature do its work." Her art piece captures the monsoon rains in the background and the planting season in the foreground. Looking closely, the clouds enshroud the sky and under the blue shawl of the rains, the Tohono O'odham Mountains stretch across the land.

Ms. Lopez aspires to create a different kind of imagery in her art. She wants to share it with the world, give back to her community, and show a path for others to pursue their dreams.

When applying ideas, Stacy wants to create a voice in her artwork and shares, "I think that the magazine gives different Natives and any culture a voice to their concerns of modern day life." When responding to the importance for our youth to be Indigenous Stewards she says, "Show the world how we work with things, such as our planting and our artwork. That's what makes us whole." As Indigenous Peoples, it is our artwork that is a recording of our history and our planting is how we naturally adapt to Mother Nature's changes.

Ms. Lopez embraces what she learns along the way with "a new perspective on life," to show us all that we can do anything if we set their minds to it! No matter what Ms. Lopez decides in her future endeavors, it is clear to her that as Natives we carry on as a family, with laughter and resilience to survive and ensure the existence of future generations.



*"If you have a dream, do it. Don't just procrastinate on it. If you just set your mind to it, it will open doors to opportunities for you." - Stacy Lopez*

*Ms. Lopez would like to thank her former culture teacher, Amy Juan; her former agriculture teacher Walter Wesch; and her family.*