

Indigenous Stewardship Through Art

By: Cheyenne Grabiec



Maximus Smith

Maximus Smith (San Carlos Apache and White Mountain Apache) is a senior at San Carlos High School and the winner of the Spring 2019 *Indigenous Stewards* Magazine Cover Art Contest. His artwork reflects his culture, his home, and how he was raised.

The crown dancer in the center of his piece not only represents his Apache culture, but it is also a reminder of his childhood and how he was raised. Growing up, his mother was very traditional and participated in many sunrise dances around the reservation.

He would accompany his mother to these dances to help out and he always remembers when the crown dancers would come out to dance.

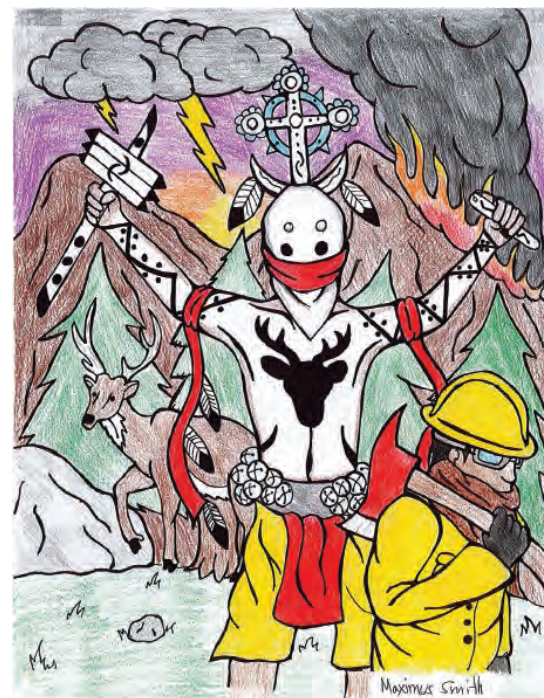
Maximus expressed his connection to his home through the mountains in the background of the artwork. He says that, "It reminded me of home. Mainly Whiteriver and the White Mountain Apache reservation because my grandmother's house is literally in the mountains. When I look out there is a great view of every mountain."

Maximus has also had family members who were firefighters, or more commonly known as, hotshots. During the time he was creating his piece he was taking a class where they did hotshot training. This training reminded him of the hotshots he knew and so he incorporated it into his art.

Upon graduating this spring, Maximus hopes to attend school at either the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM or The Art Institute of Tucson in Tucson, AZ so that he can continue his passion for art. He hopes to become an illustrator after finishing college.

He would like to thank his good friend Kayla; his math and art teacher, Mr. Hubilla; and his mother because they have all supported him in his decision to pursue a career in art.

On behalf of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center and The University of Arizona, we would like to thank Maximus for creating this beautiful piece of artwork. We wish him the best on his future endeavors and look forward to seeing more of his art!



Top: Maximus' drawing that is featured on the cover of the magazine

Bottom: Crown dancer statue outside of San Carlos High School