



Native Resistance Through Art

About the Artists

Dalbert Castro

Maidu Walk



Dalbert Castro, born in 1934, is a famous artist who paints stories and legends from his community. He's the grandson of a Maidu leader, so he grew up hearing many old stories. After he served in the U.S. Navy, his wife suggested he try art. People loved his work, and now it's shown in many places. He uses paints like acrylics and watercolors to paint stories of his people. He says old stories help his people remember their history and who they are. Dalbert's art is special because it speaks to his own background, the Nisenan people of Sacramento Valley.

"Maidu Walk" (1980) depicts the harsh relocation of Native communities from Chico to the Round Valley Reservation in 1863. They journeyed west for two weeks over tough, hot landscapes. Many from the Mikchopdo and Konkow Maidu tribes, who started the march, either passed away or fell ill. The painting shows a soldier with a whip supervising the march, with the Maidu people moving forward. In the background, the Sutter Buttes stand tall, an important site for valley peoples. His artwork serves as a powerful reminder, honoring the challenges faced by California Native communities in the past.



Eric Wilder

Bearing the Weight of History: Unveiling Historical Trauma



“A native woman stands at the heart of this piece. Her presence is both powerful and burdened. Upon her back rests a burden basket. It takes the form of not only a functional tool, but also a storing place of collective memory. This basket holds the unearthly weight of countless traumatic events that have marked the history of Native people. This image represents a story of pain, loss, and resilience. It is a reminder of the injustices, dispossession and cultural erasure that have scarred communities over time. She stands as a reminder. She reminds us of understanding, empathy, and the path to healing. She calls for recognition. We must recognize the ongoing journey to acknowledge and address the deep wounds of the past.” - Eric Wilder, artist

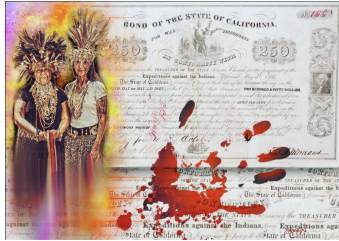
Eric Wilder is a member of the Kashaya Band of Pomo Indians. Eric has served as a fire tender, ceremony dancer, and traditional singer. After a transforming life event, Eric turned to art and became skilled at various jobs in the video game industry. He combines his art skills with his Tribal knowledge to keep their language and stories alive. Eric lives by his grandmother's teachings. He encourages people to discover their skills and be proud of who they are, making sure his Tribe's history remains known and celebrated.



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Bobby Von Martin

The State's Truth

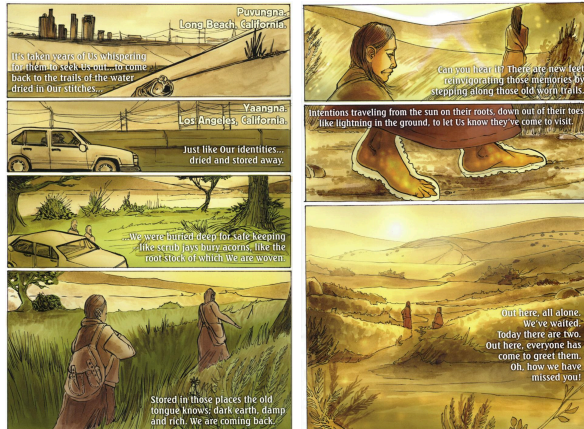


Bobby Von Martin is an enrolled citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. His people have endured many hardships like the Trail of Tears and other genocidal acts. As a kid, Bobby took part in a healing ceremony with the people of Big Tule Reservation, from an area just south of Fresno, CA. This helped him cope with many challenges he was facing in his life at the time. Later in life, he attended a California Native gathering called Chaw'se days. This sparked his interest in California's Native people, particularly the Miwoks/Miwuks. He realized that the painful history of California's Natives is not common knowledge. They will only become known if we share their stories. Bobby took time to learn about the Miwoks' land and traditions. He felt inspired to create art that highlights these stories. He believes that true Indigenous history has not been taught in schools. He wants to help change that.



Weshoyot Alvitre

My Sisters (pages 5 & 6)



"My Sisters is a 16 page comic co-written and conceived by Chag Lowry (Maidu, Yurok, Achumawi). It is a story about the importance of basketry and how it connects weavers to their homelands. Through the lens of Northern California and Southern California Tribes, it is narrated by the baskets themselves. The story shows the fortunate connection of those who have healthy Tribal homelands. It also shows the reconnection of those who have been forced off of their Tribal homelands. Basketry is vital to all Tribal communities."

-Weshoyot Alvitre, artist

Weshoyot Alvitre is a Tongva, Spanish and Scottish comic book artist, writer and illustrator. She was born in the Santa Monica Mountains on the property of Satwiwa, a cultural center started by her father, Art Alvitre. She grew up close to the land and was raised with traditional knowledge that inspires the work she does today. Weshoyot has been creating comics for over 15 years. Her work focuses on art that visualizes history through an Indigenous lens. Her work also responds to contemporary Indigenous issues. She uses pop-culture, sci-fi and archival research materials to spark conversations and re-frame dominant colonial narratives.



Joseph Byron

Our Nightmare, Our Resilience



“Until the year 1854, my *Wiṭukomnoʔm* and *ʔukomnoʔm* (Yuki) ancestors lived without settler contact for millennia in the areas now known as Eden Valley and Round Valley of Mendocino County, California. Our rough and rigid mountains protected us, and helped to preserve our pristine valleys and waterways. When settlers crossed those mountains, everything changed. On one side of “Our Nightmare, Our Resilience” is a depiction of a massacre that took place in the early years of settler contact. A group of settler men found our people in ceremony, and they lit the roof of our ceremonial Roundhouse on fire. They then positioned themselves, their guns pointing at the exit. The burning roof began to cave in on the ceremony participants. My people attempted to escape the inferno only to be met with gun fire. They either burned alive or were killed by bullets. The opposite side of the painting depicts the resiliency of my people. The Roundhouse, our songs and dances, as well as our language remain at the center for many of us within our community. Despite the state-sanctioned genocide of my ancestors, our people are still here. We remain true to ourselves and our ancestral way of life!” - Joseph Byron, artist

Joseph Byron is *Wiṭukomnoʔm* (Yuki), *Habematol* (Lake Pomo), *Baṭh:inkʰlečawi* (Southern Pomo), *Mih:ilaʔkʰawna* (Southern Pomo), *Kaša:ya* (Kashia Pomo) and *Liwanwalli* (Coast Miwok). Joseph is an artist that creates works in many forms including drawing, painting and basket weaving. He is also a speaker of *Wiṭukomnoʔm/ ʔukomnoʔm kq:ne*, *Baṭh:inkʰlečawihčamay/ Mih:ilaʔkʰawnahčamay čahnu* and *Liwanwalliiko machchaw* (the original languages of the lands of his ancestors). He is a lifetime learner of and advocate for his Indigenous culture and language. Joseph has been revitalizing, preserving and sharing his knowledge of his languages for over twenty years.



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