

**BIOGRAPHY**

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Marcus Amerman is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He was born in Phoenix, AZ and grew up in the Pacific Northwest before settling in Santa Fe, NM. He received a BA in Fine Art at Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA and took additional art courses at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM. He credits the Plateau region and its wealth of talented bead artists with introducing him to the “traditional” art form of beadwork. He quickly made this art form his own, however, by creating a new genre of bead artistry in which beads are stitched down, one by one, to create realistic, pictorial images, not just large color fields or patterns.

Amerman draws upon a wide range of influences to create strikingly original works that reflect his background of having lived in three different regions with strong artistic traditions, his academic introduction to pop art and social commentary and his inventive exploration of the potential artistic forms and expressions using beads. Although he is best known for his bead art, he is also a multimedia artist, painter, performance artist (his character “Buffalo Man” can be seen on the cover of the book *Indian Country*), fashion designer, and glass artist, as well.

**SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

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- 2010 – *Destination X*, Museum of World Culture, Göteborg, Sweden
- 2010 – *Pop! Popular Culture in American Indian Art*, Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ
- 2009 – *A Song for the Horse Nation*, National Museum of the American Indian, New York City, NY
- 2009 – *Looking Forward*, Traver Gallery, Tacoma, WA
- 2009 – *Pictorial Beading the Nez Perce Way*, Lewis and Clark State College, Lewiston, ID
- 2008 – *Comic Art Indigene*, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, NM
- 2008 – *Voices from the Mound: Contemporary Choctaw Artists* Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM
- 2007 – *Looking Indian (group exhibition)*, Untitled Artspace, Oklahoma City, OK  
*Current Realities: A Dialogue with the People*, IAO Gallery, Oklahoma City, OK
- 2006 – *Indigenous Motivations*, Natl. Museum of the American Indian, Gustave Heye Center, NYC, NY  
*Marcus Amerman: In Your Face*, Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, IN  
*Native Pop*, Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, NM  
*West of Everywhere*, Nicolaysen Museum, Casper, WY
- 2005 – *Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation II*, Museum of Arts and Design, NY, NY  
*Iconoclash*, Museum of Indian of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, NM
- 2004 – *Native Views, Influences of Modern Culture*, Artrain USA, National Touring Exhibition  
*The Bead Trail, Trade Beads of the North American Frontier*, The Bead Museum, Glendale, AZ  
*Memory Barely Satisfies: Select Artworks from Tom Joyce, Marcus Amerman and Ian Van Collier*, Governor’s Gallery, Santa Fe, NM  
*Contraries: Marcus Amerman and Alex Jacobs*, Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, Santa Fe, NM
- 2003 – *Holponiyochi, Contemporary Native American Sculpture*, Wright State University, Dayton, OH.  
*The Master Prints of Edward S. Curtis*, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Mashantucket, CT
- 2002 – *Fusing Traditions, Transformations in Glass by Native American Artists*, Museum of Craft and Folk Art, San Francisco, CA  
*Staging the Indian: The Politics of Representation*, The Tang Teaching Museum, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
- 2000 – *Who Stole the Tee Pee?* Smithsonian Institution, Nat’l Museum of the American Indian, New York, NY
- 1999 – *Winter Camp: The Legacy of Contemporary Expressions of Oklahoma Tribal Art*, National Cowboy Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City, OK  
*Arrows of the Spirit, The Legacy and Continuum of North American Indian Adornment*, Mingei International Museum, San Diego, CA  
*Fashion Fusion*, Heard Museum North, Scottsdale, AZ
- 1998 – *Head, Heart, Hands, Native American Craft Traditions in a Contemporary World*, The Kentucky Art and Craft Gallery, Louisville, KY  
*Savage Truths, Realities of Indian Life*, Institute of American Indian Arts Museum, Santa Fe, NM.  
*Images of Hope and Harmony, The Art of North American and Siberian Natives*, The Far Eastern Museum, Khabarovsk, Russia

- Healing Art*, Native American Art at the headquarters of the American Psychological Assoc., Wash., D.C.  
*Dimensions of Native America: The Contact Zone*, Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts, Tallahassee, FL
- 1997 – *Gifts of the Spirit*, Peabody-Essex Museum, Salem, MA
- 1996 – *Juxtaposition, Contradictions and Hypocrisies*, One Man Show, Kirkpatrick Center, Oklahoma City, OK.  
*Pathfinders: Masters of American Indian Art*, Cast Iron Gallery, New York, NY
- 1995 – *A Universe of One: Beadwork and Paintings by Marcus Amerman*, One Man Show, Maxwell Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- 1994 – *The Native American Fine Art Movement*, Henley Exhibition Center, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England  
*Indian Summer*, Nagoya, Japan  
*Indian Humor*, 5-year traveling exhibition from American Indian Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA.  
*Native America: Reflecting Contemporary Realities*, 6-year traveling exhibition from American Indian Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA
- 1992 – *Visions from Native America, Contemporary Art for the Year of the Indigenous Peoples*, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives rotundas, Washington, D.C.  
*Creativity is Our Tradition*, Inaugural Exhibit, Institute of American Indian Arts, Museum, Santa Fe, NM
- 1990 – *Artifacts for the Seventh Generation*, American Indian Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA.
- 1989 – *Fourth Biennial Fine Art Invitational*, Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ
- 1987 – *Contemporary Native American Artists*, Governor’s Gallery, State Capitol Building, Santa Fe, NM

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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- 2010 – *The History of Beads*, by Lois Sherr Dubin, pp 334-335
- 2009 – *Arts Beat Blog*, NY Times, June 2009
- 2009 – *Bead and Button magazine*, “Political Portraits,” p 58, April 2009
- 2008 – *THE magazine*, Featured artist, p 22 August 2008
- 2006 – *Santa Fe New Mexican’s Pasatiempo*, Cover Illustration for Feature “Native Influence,” February 3, 2006  
*Indian Gaming*, Cover Illustration, Feature, p 12, February 2006  
*Wall Street Journal* “Native American Art Amid the Manifestos” by Matthew Gurewitsch, January 5, 2006
- 2005 – *The New York Times*, “A New Dawn for Museums of Native American Art”  
*Changing Hands Exhibition Catalog, Essay: “A Postcard from the Edge of Contemporary Art”* by Daniel Roche, pp. 182-183  
*El Palacio Magazine*, “Iconoclasm, Art that Creates and Destroys,” Summer 2005, pp. 32-37
- 2004 – *Tulsa World*, “Bead to the Bone” by James D. Watts, Jr., February 20, 2004
- 2003 – *American Indian Art Magazine*, “Fusing Traditions: Transformations in Glass by Native American Artists,” pp 56-63
- 2002 – *Fusing Traditions Exhibition Catalog*, Museum of Craft and Folk Art, San Francisco, CA  
*Native Peoples Magazine*, “Native Artists Respond to 9/11” by Suzan Shown Harjo. September/October, p. 50
- 2001 – *Staging the Indian*, The Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY  
*Southwest Art Magazine*, “Marcus Amerman,” January issue, p. 40  
*American Indian Art magazine*, “Native American Art at the Portland Art Museum,” Spring issue, p. 74  
*American Craft magazine*, “Collection: Portland Art Museum, Oregon,” Feb/Mar issue, pp. 24-25
- 2000 – *Beadwork magazine*, cover illustration, “Marcus Amerman,” pp. 20-23
- 1999 – *The New York Times*, “Indian Art You Won’t See in the Casinos,” Section 2, September 19<sup>th</sup> issue
- 1998 – *Indian Market magazine*, “A Bead on Beadwork,” pp. 87-93  
*Northwest Indian magazine*, cover illustration, “Master Beadworker,” Spring issue pp. 8-9  
*The Wall Street Journal*, “American Indian Art Now,” September 4<sup>th</sup> issue  
*The New York Times*, “From the Wry Side of American Indians”
- 1997 – *Cowboys and Indians magazine*, “Beauty and the Beads,” July issue, p. 21
- 1996 – *Indian Market magazine*, “Indian Market People,” p. 88
- 1995 – *First Americans* engagement calendar, cover illustration
- 1992 – *The New Beadwork* book, by Kathyln Moss and Alice Scherer, P. 18
- 1991 – *Native Peoples magazine*, Award-winning cover art, Fall issue
- 1990 – *Elle magazine*, “Teepee Trends,” January issue
- 1989 – *American Indian Art magazine*, “The Fourth Biennial Fine Arts Invitational,” Winter issue

## PERFORMANCES

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- November 2007 – *Indian of the Future vs. Buffalo Man* (with Bently Spang), Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, MN  
August 2005 – *Tribal Fusion Fashion Show*, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM  
February 20, 2004 – *Tulsa Indian Art Festival Fashion Show*, Tulsa, OK  
October 16, 2000 – *Buffalo Man in New York*, ATLATL Conference, Natl. Mus. of the American Indian, NY, NY  
August 18, 2000 – *Culture Embodied Fashion Show and Concert*, Santa Fe, NM  
August 16, 1999 – *SWAIA Fashion Show*, Santa Fe, NM  
August 29, 1999 – *The Creation of Buffalo Man*, Mingei Museum, San Diego, CA  
June 6, 1997 – *Entity*, glow-in-the-dark installation & Techno-Shaman Performance, IAIA Museum, Santa Fe, NM  
August 18, 1997 – *IAIA Museum Indian Market*, performance with James Luna, Santa Fe, NM  
Summer 1992 – *Native Uprising Fashion Show*, IAIA Museum Grand Opening, Santa Fe, NM  
May 28, 1988 – *Native Influx Fashion Show*, Santa Fe Opera, Santa Fe, NM

## SELECTED LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

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- 2009 – **Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association**, Conference scholar on the topic of Indians used as mascots with Suzan Shown Harjo and Mateo Romero, Albuquerque, NM  
2006 – *Intersections of Native American Politics, Culture and Law*, Featured Speaker, School of Law, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR  
*Iconoglass*, Instructor with Preston Singletary at Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA  
2004 – *Informed Vision, Magnet NM*, Featured Lecturer, Roswell Museum of Art, Roswell, NM  
*Native American Studies Lecture*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK  
2003 – *Art is War*, Southwest Seminars Featured Speaker, Santa Fe, NM  
2000 – *Art is War*, Oscar Howe Memorial Lecture on American Indian Art, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD  
*Portraits in Beadwork*, The Bead Shoppe and the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center, Ketchikan, AK  
1999 – *North American Indian Jewelry and Adornment from Prehistory to the Present*, North American Indian Artists' Symposium, Mingei International Museum, San Diego, CA  
*Families and Communities: The Traditional Indian Artists Series*, artist-in-residency, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, NM  
1998 – *Savage Truths: Realities of Indian Life*, lecture series, New Mexico Public Schools, Santa Fe, NM  
*Contemporary Beadwork*, Crow's Shadow Institute, Pendleton, OR  
1997 – *Innovation as Tradition*, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA  
1996 – *Beadwork Demonstration*, SWAIA Summer Youth Camp, Santa Fe, NM  
1995 – *Native Fashion Today*, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, NM  
1992 – *Native American Perspective on Beads & Beadwork*, Intl. Conference & Bead Bazaar, Santa Fe, NM

## SELECTED SPECIAL PROJECTS

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- 2010 – *Te Tihi Indigenous Artist Gathering*, Aotearoa, New Zealand  
2008 – *National Geographic All Roads Project Award Designer*, commissioned to create awards for All Roads Film students, Santa Fe, NM  
2007 – *The Answers Lie Within*, Invited participant for a cultural exchange to South Africa sponsored by IAIA and the Kellogg Foundation  
2007 – *PIKO Indigenous Artists Gathering*, Invitation only gathering sponsored by the Keomailani Hanapi Foundation, Waimea South Kohala, HI  
2006 – *Signature Artist*, Eiteljorg Museum Indian Market, Indianapolis, IN  
2006 – *Instructor*, Private Teaching/Tutorial for bead artist and Native Alaskan artist Paula Rasmus Ded, funded by the Alaska Native Arts Foundation  
2004 – *Commemorative Artist*, Tulsa Indian Art Festival, Tulsa, OK  
2002 – *First People's Fund Mentor Program*, Mentor  
2001 – *First People's Fund Mentor Program*, Mentor  
2000 – *National Initiative to Preserve America's Dance*, consultant  
2000 – *Whispering Thunder – CD by Mitchell Zephier*, cover illustration  
1999 – *American Indian Radio Project* CD, radio show, and consultant  
1999 – *Indian Art through Indian Eyes* video project interview, Institute of American Indian Arts Museum

- 1998 – *Indian Art Northwest Commemorative Artist*, 11" x 17" beaded portraits transferred to posters, t-shirts, sweatshirts, embroidered leather jackets and pins  
1994 – *Proud Heritage Collection*, four plates depicting great warrior-chiefs for the Bradford Exchange  
1993 – *Lollapalooza '93*, 80-ft painted mural depicting Indian History for 35-city international rock festival

## FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

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- 2009 – *Visiting Artists Residency*, Museum of Glass, to work collaboratively with Preston Singletary  
2008 – *Artist in Residence*, Session II, Pilchuck Glass School  
2008 – *Hauberg Fellow*, Pilchuck Glass School  
2004 – *School of American Research Dubin Native American Artist Fellowship* to study the Native American art collection, create w/o interruption, and contribute a piece to the school's permanent collection  
2004 – *Morning Star Institute's Dubin Artist Fellowship* to recognize artist excellence  
1999 – *Southwestern Association for Indian Arts* fellowship award to create Indian Superhero Race Car  
1999 – *National Museum of the American Indian* artist-in-residency to research mound builder cultural artifacts

## PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

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*American Museum of Natural History*, New York, NY  
*Colorado Springs Fine Art Center*, Colorado Springs, CO  
*Eiteljorg Museum*, Indianapolis, IN  
*Fred Jones Gallery, University of Oklahoma*, Norman, OK  
*Heard Museum*, Phoenix, AZ  
*Indian Arts and Crafts Board*, US Department of the Interior, Washington, DC  
*Montclair Museum*, Montclair, NJ  
*Museum of Arts and Design*, New York, NY  
*Museum of Contemporary Native Arts*, Santa Fe, NM  
*Museum of Indian Arts and Culture*, Santa Fe, NM  
*Native Peoples Magazine*, Phoenix, AZ  
*Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art*, Overland Park, KS  
*Peabody Essex Museum*, Salem, MA  
*Portland Art Museum*, Portland, OR  
*Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian*, New York, NY  
*Renée Zellweger, John Travolta, Elton John, Sylvester Stallone, Val Kilmer, Winona Ryder, Goldie Hawn, Rick West*

Work may be viewed and more information found at: [www.marcusamermerman.com](http://www.marcusamermerman.com)