Native Center for Behavioral Health

Marie Watt

Marie Watt is a Native artist born in 1967 in Seattle, Washington and is a member of the Seneca Nation of Indians[1,2]. She also has German-Scots heritage[1,2]. She currently resides in Portland, Oregon[2]. Watts has a MFA in painting and preintmaking from Yale and attended Willamette University and the Institute of American Indian Arts. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from Willamette University in 2016[2]. Her work uses symbolism, text, and group activities to create sculptural works. She uses her Native heritage to synthesize mythologies, histories, and teachings, as well as contemporary international issues[1,2]. Her works use wolves and dogs to reference the First Teachers within Iroquois oral tradition and La Lupa Capitolina, the Etruscan she-wolf nursing of the mythological founders of Rome; it also recurringly uses the word 'mother' and explores and expands the definition of the word[2]. Her textiles, from blankets and shirts, also carry deep symbolism that protect us from the cold and external dangers[2]. Watt also uses repurposed and donated materials that are embedded in their own histories and underline the importance of community and connections over time, which reinforces the connection between objects and storytelling[2]. She also has used collaborative sewing circles to create works, which also have connections to fellowship and storytelling[2]. Watt's work can be seen at Moody Center for the Arts in Houston, TX for a show called Narrative Threads: Fiber Art Today; Social Fabric: Textiles and Contemporary Issues at Newport Art Museum in Newport, RI; American Art: The Stories We Carry at Seattle Art Museum in Seattle, WA; and Transformed: Objects Reimagined by American Artists at Montclair Art Museum in Montclair, NJ[1].

Citations
1.   Marie Watt Studio. (n.d.). Marie Watt Studio. Retrieved January 31, 2023, from https://mariewattstudio.com/
2.   Marie Watt. MARC STRAUS. (2022, October 2). Retrieved January 31, 2023, from https://www.marcstraus.com/artists/marie-watt/