

Mona M. Smith

Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota (#347-00008725)

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Selected Awards

- 2007, Minnesota Humanities Center Award for *City Indians* adaptation for the web
- 2006, Community Artist for 2007, National Museum of American Indian, Smithsonian
- 2005, Minnesota State Arts Board Community Cultural Partnership Grant, *City Indians*
- 2005, Finalist, Bush Artist Fellowship
- 2003, Fellowship for the Institute for Community Cultural Development, Minneapolis
- 2001, First Place Media Award, Nat'l Council on Family Relations, *Getting to the Heart of It*
- 2001, Montreal First Nations International Film Festival, *Wintercount*
- 2000, Honorable Mention Media Award, Nat'l Council on Family Relations
- 1999, Producer's Award (Mother Earth, Father Sky Award), Two Rivers Native Film and Video Festival, *Bertha Iron Boy Story*
- 1999, Silver Cindy Award, Bronze Telly Award, New York Film Festival, *Bertha Iron Boy Story*

Sample Installations, Exhibitions and Broadcast

- Mill City Museum, Mpls., *Presence*, in progress, multimedia/live installation-event, 06/15/2010
- Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN, *Mona Smith-Multimedia Retrospective*, March, 2010
- Form+Content Gallery, Mpls., MN, *Mnisota Dakota Home* - 11/27/2008-01/05/2009
- Ancient Trader's Gallery, Minneapolis, MN, *City Indians* installation - 11/10/2006-1/27/2007
- Minnesota History Center, *Cloudy Waters: Dakota Reflections on the River* - 2004-2005
- Brooklyn Museum of Art, American Indian Community House, International AIDS Conference, Pacifica Archives, John D. and Catherine T. Macarthur Native Film and Video Collection, Walker Art Center, Regional PBS broadcasts, nat'l Cable broadcasts of *Her Giveaway*, *That Which is Between* and *Bertha Iron Boy Story*

Positions Held

1996-present

Producer/Director/Media Artist and Owner, providing media, art, and creative services
Allies: media/art (Allies, LLC) - <http://www.alliesmediaart.com>

1989-1995

Program Coordinator
National Indian AIDS Media Consortium

1983-1995

Independent scriptwriter/producer/director/talent
Approximately 40 audio-video programs; documentary, education and training produced.

1983

Personnel Director
Little Six Enterprises
Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community

1979-1983

Instructor
Women's Studies, Health Science, and Minority Studies Departments
Mankato State University, Mankato, MN

References

- Matthew Brandt, Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 Ivy St., St. Paul, MN 55106
- Daniel Spock, Minnesota History Center, 345 West Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102
- Laura Waterman Wittstock, 913 19th Avenue Southeast, Mpls., MN 55409



Selected Media Projects

Bdote Memory Map Website – Phase Two - 2010

Minnesota Humanities Center Partnership – phase two available Spring 2010

Bdotememorymap.org

Role: concept, producer of site, and producer/director of video/audio for use in website.

Between Fences – video piece supplement - 2009

Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit for

Minnesota Humanities Center

Role: producer/director

Jeffers Petroglyphs podcasts - 2009

Minnesota History Center four enhanced podcasts for web and tour use

Role: producer/director and editor

Mnisota Dakota Home – 2008

Two-person photography and multimedia installation

Form + Content Gallery, Minneapolis, MN

Role: media artist

Bdote Video/Audio Podcast - 2008

Telling River Stories

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Available for viewing at <http://www.riverstories.umn.edu> (Explore the river - confluence story)

Role: producer/director/editor

How to Grow Tobacco - 2008

8 min. video piece on traditional tobacco growth

Indigenous People's Task Force, Minneapolis, MN

Role: producer/director

Beishgo Asehema – 2008

20-minute video on traditional Native teachings about ceremonial tobacco

Indigenous People's Task Force, Minneapolis, MN

Available for viewing at <http://www.indigenouspeoplestf.org>

Role: producer/director

City Indians – 2006- 2007

One-person multimedia installation

Ancient Trader's Gallery

Role: media artist

Cloudy Waters: Dakota Reflections on the River – 2005-2006

Experimental Gallery Exhibit/Installation

Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, MN

Role: media artist

More information on projects available at <http://www.alliesmediaart.com>

Selected Presentations

Mona Smith – a Multimedia Retrospective

Augsburg College, Minneapolis MN
March, 2010

Encounter? Memory, Art, Place

Theatre Arts 8112, Sonja Kuftinec
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
January, 2009

Artist Panel – Sovereignty; A Minnesota Sesquicentennial Symposium

University of Minnesota, Ancient Traders Gallery, Form+Content Gallery
Nolte Hall, University of Minnesota
December, 2008

Immersive Media and Teaching/Learning about Dakota People, Dakota Place

Center for Global Environmental Education - Summer Seminar for Teachers, Hamline University
Fort Snelling State Park, Mpls., MN
Summer, 2008

Allies: media/art - Place Specific Media Art

Summer Studio: Space & Place Collaborative,
University of Minnesota with Land2,
University of Leeds, United Kingdom (www.land2.uwe.ac.uk)
Summer, 2007

Bdote, Where You Live - Seniors' Speakers Series

Nokomis Lutheran Church
Spring, 2008

Dakota Speak of Rivers

U of M public lecture series
Institute for Advanced Study - College of Design, Institute for the Environment, University of
Minnesota
October, 2007

Primary Scholar for two two-day teacher institutes, 'Urban Natives' at Minnesota Humanities

Center, St. Paul, MN
November, 2007

Is Empty Ever Truly Empty?

"Architectures of Emptiness,"
University of Minnesota Symposium,
Spring, 2008
<http://www.ias.umn.edu/EmptyArchitecture.php>

Dakota, Media and Place

Final Dakota Scholars Conference,
Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN
Spring, 2008

**From “Artistic and Activist Memory-Work: Approaching Place-based Practice”,
by Karen Till, PhD, Department of Geography, University of Minnesota,
Memory Studies 1(1) (2008)**

“... Not only can scholars learn from such “memorials” for the ways they question existing institutional structures of memory, they can also begin to consider the ways these projects explore the creative potential of time and space, memory and forgetting. ...In quite distinct ways, American Dakota multi-media artist and educator Mona Smith (2007) questions Western practices of memory by acknowledging the presence of Dakota peoples in public space. Through temporary multi-media installations, such as “Cloudy Waters” and “City Indians,” and in educational projects, including memory maps, community events, and semi-permanent sound environments, visitors encounter multi-sensual historical narratives, Dakota stories, environmental memories, and landscape experiences. As Smith explains, “Dakota remember through land, experience (including ceremony), and story. Dakota people know that everything passes away, so buildings and signage and memorials are not the traditional ways to honor, to mourn, to remember.”

Smith’s work calls attention to interior and exterior movements of memory through landscape, story and ritual. As I describe below, this is another reason why memory studies scholars should pay attention to artistic and activist practice: these projects explore the understudied relationships between embodied and shared memory.”

More selected publications that discuss Smith work

- "Consideration of a Native American Aesthetic: Mona Smith and Activist Video Voice." Michigan Academician. 30.4 (August 1998): 371-386.
- "Consideration of a Native American Aesthetic: Mona Smith, Community Leadership and the Activist Video Voice," A Leadership Journal: Women in Leadership - Sharing the Vision. 3.1 (Fall 1998): 67-76.
- "Native Women and Film: Activist Video and Mona Smith." Columbia College Women's Studies Conference on Native Women's Voices." Columbia, SC, October 1997.
- Implications of A Feminist Narratology: Temporality, Focalization and Voice in the Films of Julie Dash, Mona Smith and Trinh Minh-ha." University Film and Video Association Conference, Orange, CA, August 1996.
- Wiping the War Paint off the Lens: Native American Film and Video, Beverly R. Singer
- Indigenous Aesthetics; Native Art, Media and Identity, Steven Leuthold
- Women in Culture, Peach
- Killing Us Quietly; Native Americans and HIV/AIDS, Irene S. Vernon
- Gender on Campus: Issues for College Women, Marcie Hefernan Stoff, Jody Lynn Yetger, Sharon Gmelech
- AIDS TV. Alexandra Juliasz
- Beyond the Masks: Race, Gender and Subjectivity. Amina Mama
- Women Film Directors: an International Bio-Critical Dictionary. Gwendolyn Audrey Forster

Community

Board of Directors, 2009 – present
Migizi Communications 2009 – present
3123 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN
Migizi.org

Advisory Council
All My Relations Art Gallery and Program
Minneapolis, MN
Nacdi.org