

NEWS RELEASE

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Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences

Work by Joe Feddersen on View at NAS

WASHINGTON — Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces “Terrain: Speaking of Home,” an exhibition of artwork by Native American artist Joe Feddersen (Okanagan and Arrow Lakes). The exhibition is on view through Sept. 30, 2022, at the National Academy of Sciences.

Feddersen explores Indigenous landscapes and icons, and the complex relationship between contemporary and native symbolism in his artwork. He incorporates minimalist geometric patterns into his work that are reflective of the landscape and his Native American heritage. He works in an array of media, including painting, printmaking, photography, collage, basketry, and glass.

“My work is about the world around me. I draw from the landscape, current events, regional histories, tribal legacies, personal narratives, and contemporary dialogues,” says Feddersen. “My process consists of many steps before I even begin to work — researching ancestral work and its iconography as well as talking to elders. I told myself that I would focus on personal narratives, grounding them in Native traditions. In conversations with Elaine Timintwa-Emerson, a Colville Reservation elder, we talked about petroglyphs near home. She told me that the youth, while questing, would go to the rock wall and add to it. Therefore, they would extend the history, learning the past and adding parts of the present. I think of my work in this way; it is grounded in tradition yet speaks to the present.”

Feddersen trained at Wenatchee Valley College; the University of Washington, Seattle; and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has been an active participant in the Contemporary Native Fine Arts Movement, exhibiting internationally since the early 1980s and in the Pacific Northwest. Feddersen exhibited in pivotal shows such as “Continuum: 12 Artists” at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in New York and his work will be featured in the Smithsonian’s “Sharing Honors and Burdens: Renwick Invitational 2023.” He was an art faculty member at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, from 1989 until his retirement in 2009. He lives in his hometown of Omak, Washington, on the Colville Reservation.

“Terrain: Speaking of Home” is on exhibit at the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. The building is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. A photo ID and proof of up-to-date vaccination against COVID-19 is required. For details about our operating status and COVID-19 vaccination policy, visit <https://www.nationalacademies.org/about/operating-status>. For more information about our exhibitions, visit www.cpnas.org.

Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences sponsors exhibitions, the D.C. Art Science Evening Rendezvous salon, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and — with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine — provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations. **(Continues on page 2)**

Press Images of “Terrain: Speaking of Home” by Joe Feddersen



Left to right from top: *Cell Phone Tower*, 2009, blown and etched glass, 22 x 8 x 8 inches; *Omak Lake 2*, 2019, monoprint on paper with spray paint, 19.5 x 15 inches; *Echo 10*, 2019, archival pigment print with monoprint on kozo paper, 52.375 x 35 inches; *Space Ship*, 2010, waxed linen, 7.5 x 6.5 x 6.5 inches.

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