

Neoglyphix

by Gilbert Lujan Rivera, Jr.
and Martina Dawley, PhD

On October 24, 2015 Arizona State Museum hosted Neoglyphix. Neoglyphix is the only all Indigenous aerosol art collaborative project, made up of 21 talented artists, unified to convey the shift in “contemporary” Native American art through the raw expressions of aerosol art.

Visual movement that breaks the barriers of what constitutes “Indian art.” Aerosol art aka graffiti can be traced back to the 1970’s, which was and continues to be viewed as illegal and destructive to public and private buildings, fences, and trains. Regardless, this art form through underground channels has fostered a significant relationship with Indigenous artists on and off the reservations.



The UA AIHA/ASSE Student Section members came out to talk about the use of respirators as well as give insightful information on the harmful effects of spray paints.

Founded to address social justice issues and to engage the youth so that they can explore their artistic talents without harming themselves and their communities. Co-founder Dwayne “Dwyano Insano” Manuel and Thomas “Breeze” Marcus can attest to their effort in their summer youth art program, Labor of Love.

Neoglyphix also brings together other Indigenous players, including hip hop, metal, and waila bands; slam poetry; fashion; student &



Neoglyphix by Alaina Pierce (Tohono O’odham) Rogue Tucson Art

community organizations; and food & art vendors. This year’s performers included Shining Soul, Gertie and the TO Boyz, the Dead Chiefs, Jared Ox Dx Yazzie, and others.

The artwork and performances spoke to resilience, artistic abilities, and a continuation of tradition and culture through contemporary means, and family. Seeing everyone gathered around, talking, laughing and smiling demonstrated how indigenous people continue to build on their traditions and cultural ways of life through their art.

Neoglyphix gives the youth guidance toward maintaining their cultural identity through unconventional ways of knowing.

“The way I see Neoglyphix, neo means new or rejuvenated and glyphix means the writings on walls. I feel that it’s a long tradition of writing on the walls when it comes to Indigenous people. And, when the graffiti artists carry on this tradition of writing on the walls to tell a story, or whatever that may be, it tells the public that -WE ARE HERE.” (Dwayne Manuel, Co-founder and organizer 2014)

Featured Artists of 2015 Neoglyphix

Vyal, Jamie Reyes (Zuni/Yaqui)
Akers (Yaqui)
Cozie (Navajo)
Cyfi, Rocky Martinez (Yaqui)
Dytch66, Robert Gomez (Apache)
Douglas Miles (Apache)
Dues (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota)
Dwayne Insano (Onk Akimel O’odham)
Erode, Ryan Webster (Onk Akimel O’odham)
Lokey, Jaime Jackson (Akimel O’odham)
Navem (Onk Akimel O’odham)
Ngen, Tim Pasqual (Tohono O’odham)
Nox, Paul Pablo (Tohono O’odham)
Rezmo, Natasha Martinez (Navajo)
Robr (Oah’u)
Strike One, Rene Garcia (Tohono O’odham)
Trie (Santa Clara Pueblo)
Unek (Jemez Pueblo/Tewa)
Yerba (Yaqui)
Yuku, Anitra Molina (Yaqui)
Rezek, Ha:şañ Student Artist

Go to neoglyphix.org for more information!