Artist Asa Wright – Queer Love

Asa Wright, Klamath/Modoc/Yahooskin, is a visual artist, designer and activist whose work speaks to identity, self, and love of self and culture. As he says, "Art is like air for me: I need it to live, it feeds me, it's an outlet, it's healing. I don't like to limit my art to any one medium, but I would say that painting is my love. I work mainly in acrylic. I like to push myself and my self-doubt around by getting outside my comfort zone with color.

I am inspired by my trauma and joy, my heartache and happiness, my culture, my children, my love, and loss. I have pieces rolling through my mind all the time, yet the pieces I show and that come out on canvas tend to be pieces where I have taken time and wrestled with what is finished.

I'd like to say something intellectual and witty about my work, but it is what it is, all fancy words stripped away, my art just is. It's raw, unraveling pieces of my heart that I choose to share with the world and often it represents my voice and how I feel and therefore no words are needed."

bio

Asa is an enrolled member of the Klamath Tribes from Chiloquin, Oregon though he has called Portland home for the last 20 years. He is an artist of many mediums including painting, screen printing, graphic design, and cultural arts such as beadwork, weaving, making drums, cradleboards, and regalia. Asa has a Bachelor's degree in Public Health from Portland State University and a Master's degree in Collaborative Design from Pacific NW College of Art.

Asa blends his backgrounds in public health and art/design to work on cultural revitalization, decolonization, and positive social change. Asa also trains communities in and creates art for action, art that brings about awareness of social justice issues that motivate communities, people, and organizations to mobilize for direct change. Asa also founded Portland Two Spirit Society in an effort to reclaim and restore the role of Two Spirits in Indigenous communities.

Photo credit: Asa Wright 2023