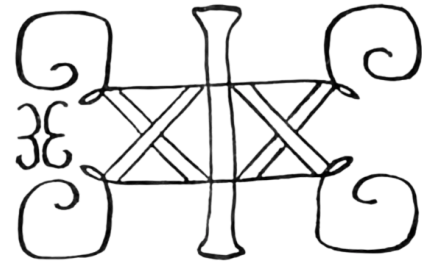


# Culturally Responsible Art Education



## Questions to ask yourself –

- Whose ancestral land do I live on?
- Why am I teaching Indigenous Art?
- Where can I learn more?
- Where can I find first-person resources?
- How can I teach authentically?
- What do I know about Indigenous Tribes/Nations, is it truthful, whose lens frames the information?
- What are the meanings of Indigenous symbols/images?
- What do I know about traditional or ceremonial artforms?
- What is the difference between traditional and contemporary Indigenous artists?

## Things I can do –

- Talk about Indigenous in the present.
- Make direct connections with tribal communities and the artists
- Understanding Indigenous peoples encompass the entire Western Hemisphere.
- Engage with contemporary artists first, then explore the connections between past and present.
- Invite artists and elders into your classroom.
- Build community and seek relevant and multiple resources
- Respect the sacred and spiritual - do not copy or recreate sacred symbols
- Avoid stereotypes
- Avoid appropriation – respect someone’s right to their cultural patrimony, engage with the story/message, do not copy the art form or symbols
- Discover the message/story, what is seen and unseen
- Engage dialogue about changing positions of power, struggle, and identity

- Create a dialogue that explores how meaning is significant to the maker first, then engage cross-cultural connections

### **Contemporary Indigenous Artists.....**

- Negotiate the physical and social environment
- Adapt new ideas, materials, and circumstances
- Link to tradition, to survive and change
- Contextualize life and worldview as alive and evolving
- Construct connections to past, present, and future
- Explore human themes
- Battle stereotypes and assumptions
- Reclaim cultural heritage through an Indigenous voice

Updated: September 2024