



Connections: The Blackfeet and Winold Reiss



The artwork presented in this exhibition showcase connections between Blackfeet people and German American modernist artist Winold Reiss (1886-1953). Some individuals and families from the Blackfeet Nation formed decades-long relationships with Reiss during his many visits to Blackfoot Territory from New York between 1920 and 1948, and many Blackfeet people worked for Reiss as portrait models. The most recognizable portraits are those that the Great Northern Railway Company purchased from Reiss and reproduced in advertisements for its resorts and tour operations in Glacier National Park. These portraits connect us with Blackfeet individuals who grappled with the imposition of the tourism industry on their traditional territory in the early twentieth century. As iconic images, they circulated widely in North America and internationally.

Reiss also established relationships with local Blackfeet artists, and influenced the work of Victor Pepion, Albert Racine, and Hart Merriam Schultz (Lone Wolf). In turn, these artists influenced successive generations of Blackfeet artists, including John Pepion and David Dragonfly, whose work is included in this exhibition. This exhibition reconnects the portraits with their community and families, bringing nine of Reiss's original pastel portraits into conversation with the art and belongings of Blackfeet people from the collection of the Museum of the Plains Indian.

Connections: The Blackfeet and Winold Reiss was curated by Renee Bear Medicine (Museum of the Plains Indian Curator), and Heather Caverhill (Independent Art Historian). This exhibition was made possible through a partnership between Blackfeet Nation, Glacier National Park Conservancy, Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Foundation, and the Museum of the Plains Indian. The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Foundation generously loaned most of the portraits in this exhibition to the Museum of the Plains Indian.

The Museum of the Plains Indian is managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Arts and Crafts Board. For admission fees and hours of operation please visit www.doi.gov/iacb/museum-plains-indian or call (406) 338-2230

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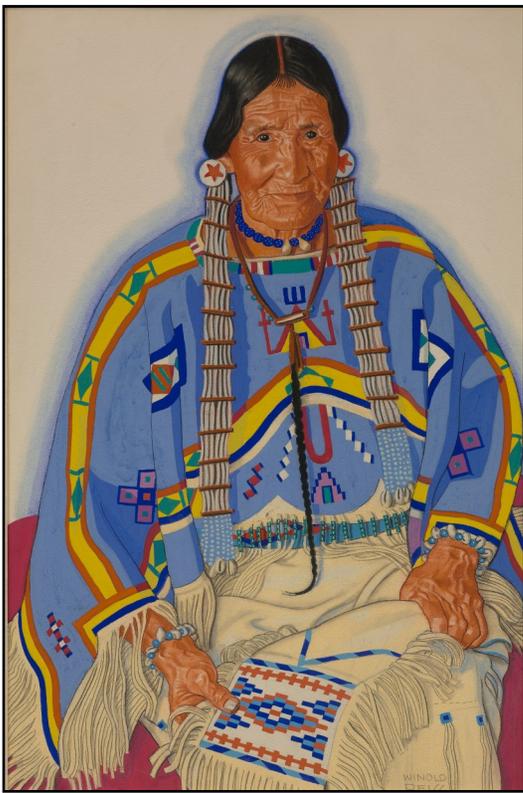
Turtle

© 1943 Winold Reiss

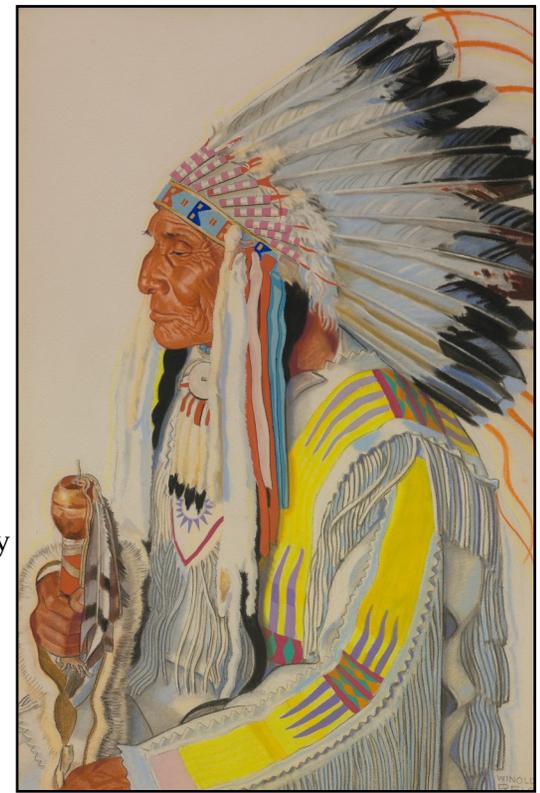
Pastel on Whatman board

Image courtesy of BNSF Railway Foundation

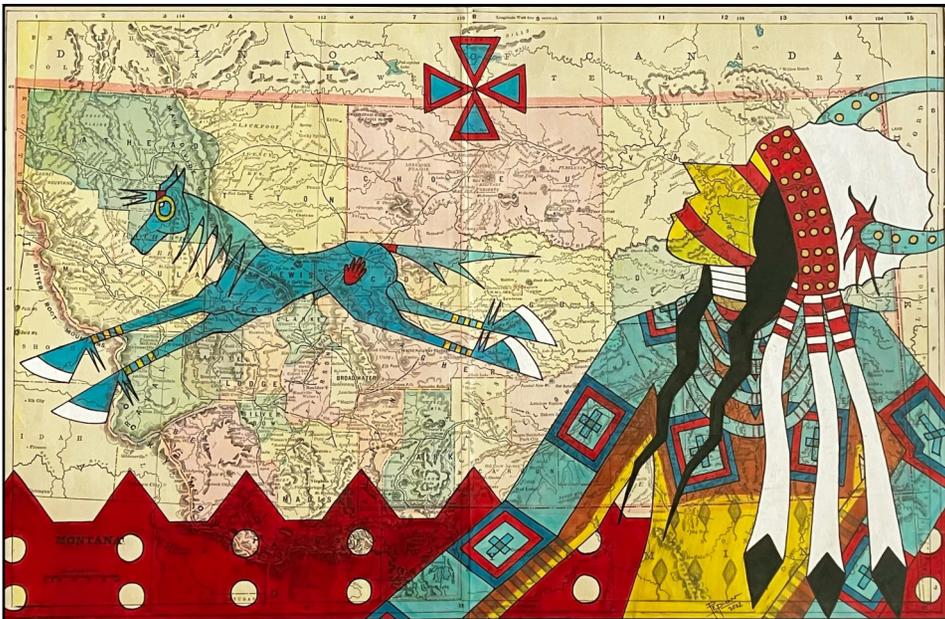
May 27 to October 29, 2022



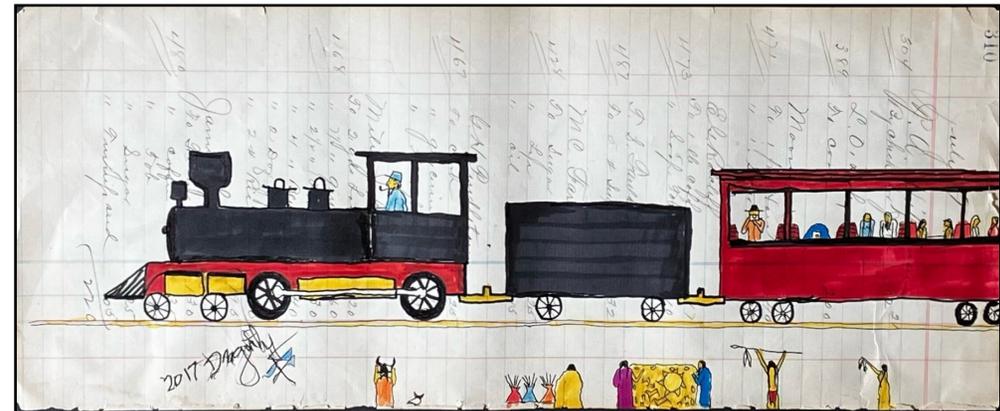
Julia Wades in the Water
© 1943 Winold Reiss
Pastel on Whatman board
Image courtesy of BNSF Railway
Foundation



Chief Wades in the Water
© 1943 Winold Reiss
Pastel on Whatman board
Image courtesy of BNSF Railway
Foundation



Our Land
©2022 John Pepion
Ink on antique map



Family Arriving by Train
© 2017 David Dragonfly
Ink on antique ledger paper