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Four Prints

Gloria White Calico

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About the Artist: Gloria White Calico

Although she calls herself an "Urban Indian," Gloria White Calico maintains strong ties to both the Blackfeet culture of her grandfather and the Alaskan heritage of her grandmother, an Athabaskan Indian whose tribe fished along the Yukon River. Her grandparents met while attending the Chemawa Boarding School, and later moved to her grandfather's home on the Blackfeet Reservation in northwestern Montana.

White Calico's dual heritage is reflected in her rich variety of subject matter, and has influenced her love of bright colors and her experiments of adding such media as buttons, beads and feathers to her paintings. Color, she says, carries as much power as subject matter and composition. For White Calico, the overlapping of these elements in multi-media collages "emulates how reality and myth overlap and sometimes merge."

"Color and texture are strong sensory and tactile media, and my interpretations of life revolve around them. As an only child who frequently moved, sometimes to a new school every year, art became a source of escape into a world of imagination. Painting and drawing became my means of survival."

Born in Browning in 1960, White Calico lived with her mother and grandmother in Great Falls, Montana, and Sacramento, California, before finally settling in Seattle, where she lives today with her two sons. She began study at the University of Washington in 1979, graduating in 1990 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and a Bachelor of Arts in Native American Studies. Her interests in Native American history and tribal stories of the Blackfeet, and her ties to the northwest coast, are brought together in her work, as she strives to combine tribal history, stories, people and nature into a cohesive structure.

Since 1989, she has participated in many group exhibits in the Seattle area, in addition to a recent showing at the Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning, Montana. White Calico's work is available directly from the artist at 2718 NE 130th Street, Seattle, Washington 98125.



Gloria White Calico, *Still Waiting*, mixed media, 18" x 24", 1992



Gloria White Calico, *The Wedding*, acrylic, 18" x 24", 1992



Gloria White Calico, *"...of the 173 dead, 33 were men,"* mixed media, 4' x 5', 1992

Gloria White Calico
Coyote and His Wife
acrylic, 24" x 36"
1992

