



Inside Stories

June Kelly Gallery Presents New Paintings by Distinguished Native American Artist Kay WalkingStick

Perhaps today's most celebrated contemporary Native American artist, Kay WalkingStick is best known for her diptychs of landscapes, which she began creating in the 1980s. The large-scale works present both abstract and realistic views of American places side-by-side. The works also function as a metaphor for people of mixed cultures, including WalkingStick herself. The artist is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation due to her father's ancestry and is of Scottish-Irish descent on her mother's side.

Though WalkingStick began her career in the 1960s by depicting the human form, she became increasingly interested in abstraction, the spirituality of art-making and her Native American identity.

In her latest series of paintings on view at June Kelly Gallery, the artist began by exploring the Atlantic shore as a kind of "cloud atlas," but her focus shifted during the process.

"While the skies over the Atlantic Ocean and the Sierra Nevada are spectacular, the more I painted, the more important became the mountains and sea. The sky took its appropriate place as our great backdrop — our metaphor for the great canopy," WalkingStick explained.

The exhibition is on view through January 5th, complementing the first major retrospective of the artist's work, "Kay WalkingStick: An American Artist," on view at the National Museum of the American Indian until September 18, 2016.



WalkingStick, Aquidneck Cliffs, 2015, oil on panel. Courtesy June Kelly Gallery, New York



WalkingStick, Beavertail Light, 2015, oil on panel. Courtesy June Kelly Gallery, New York



WalkingStick, East Passage Newport, 2015, oil on panel. Courtesy June Kelly Gallery, New York



WalkingStick, Looking East, 2015, oil on panel. Courtesy June Kelly Gallery, New York