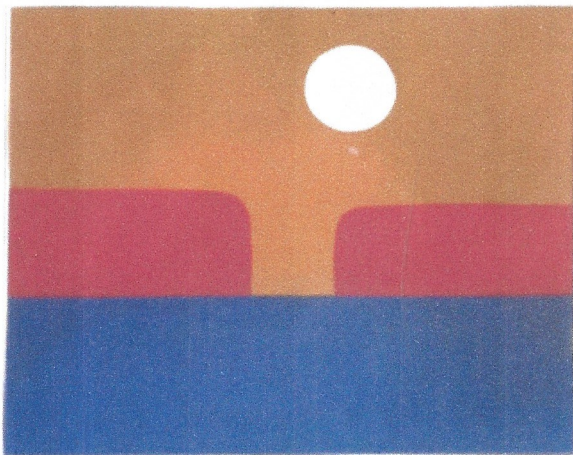


Abridging Ambiguity

Taking risks through Art

A shortcut through the vague, abridging ambiguity, is it possible to bypass the unclear and get right to the heart of the thing? If possible, how might an art exhibit at Mayo help to navigate these pathways? The artwork alone holds no secret formula to this question, but instead, the human experience compounded by art does create various benefits, specifically, helping one to live comfortably with ambiguity.

Nancy Kravetz's artwork, currently on exhibit [1], is an excellent way to explore ambiguity. Kravetz's work organizes abstract landscapes through warm colors and soft geometric forms. While intuitively one may quickly pick out the horizon lines, the mountain ridges and connect the pallet choices to a desert landscape, but what is unclear are the specifics of these places and the relationships the artist has to this work. Looking upon these works one begins to relate to these images based on the standpoint of self, however, art is an exchange of ideas, and reflecting upon the possibilities that this work may take you is a quick way to build resilience around ambiguous thinking.



[1] Nancy Kravetz: Red Mesa 36" Tall x 46" Wide

On display at the Scottsdale Pharmacy Gallery,

September 14th – December 15th, 2021

Sometimes a smile may be nothing more than a smile, but it also might be a technique someone has deployed to handle an uncomfortable conversation. Our minds are resilient and quickly adaptive to our environments and building upon these skills through visual engagements and asking questions can one grow a wealth of varied perspectives. Looking at Art in this way of allowing oneself to become comfortable with a range of possibilities, and questioning along the way does not remove ambiguity, however, it allows for flexibility and acceptance to ideas beyond the self. The action of looking beyond the self provides pathways for experiencers to approach ambiguity as a shared responsibility between oneself and another.

As an artist and being of European and Native American Indian descent (The Delaware Tribe of Indians) art has cultivated my life in a variety of ways. The act of looking upon ambiguous art forms has allowed me to create my identity with the visual experience and highlighted my own hero's journey. The struggle of feeling guilty of living on someone else's land, and the lack of confidence that I am enough "Native" plagued my youth. Never truly feeling like one belongs or fits neatly into the constructs of the modern world. However, art-making allowed me to question those narratives and look inward not for answers but for an understanding of the self. Art has done more than to allow me to take part in the journey it has provided space for me to create and exchange a conversation with others. To invite others to partake in my experience, emotional wins, loses, and, most of all, to empathize with each other.



David Haff: My Bleeding Heart 36" Tall x 36" Wide

As the Arts Program Specialist with Mayo Clinic Center for Humanities in Medicine, I hope to showcase art that provokes questions to which one may reflect upon and grow deeper bonds to the world around them. Furthermore, I encourage all staff to actively engage in art-making to explore their understanding. The Center for Humanities in Medicine has produced art challenges [2] to provide a recharge throughout your week, and to encourage moments of reflection. The next time you look upon abstract art shown at Mayo don't fret the unknown, instead look upon ambiguity with varied perspectives, questions, and curiosity.

- David L. Haff, Mayo Art's Program Specialist