

Staff Collections Committee Recommendations to the AAA Committee, 8/13/2015



TIN.2015-1-1

Proposed Donation

TIN.2015-1-1

Artist: Dawn Dark Mountain (Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin), 2015 Eric and Barbara Dobkin Native American Artist Fellow

Item Name: Sculptural painting

Date: 2007

Materials: See attached report

Dimensions: See attached report

Offered for donation by: Dawn Dark Mountain

Description and Background: Cylindrical watercolor painting on paper. Scene of a sky with thirty stars in it, a sun, a lightning bolt, clouds, water, and four turtles. The stars, sun rays, and lightning bolt are cut out and painted blue around their edges. The interior of the cylinder is painted yellow, so yellow is visible behind the star, sunray, and lightning cut outs.

The scene illustrates a portion of a version of the Iroquois creation story in which Little Turtle collects lightning bolts to create the sun and moon. The four turtles depicted in the work are all representations of Little Turtle at different points in the story. The half-circle shapes at the bottom edge of the piece, with what looks like a plant sprout growing from the top of each one, are based on an Iroquois beadwork pattern. They represent the sky dome and the celestial tree that are explained in another part of the Iroquois creation story, in which Skywoman fell from her home in the sky through a hole at the roots of the celestial tree.

Dawn Dark Mountain's heritage is an integral part of her artwork. She uses controlled, intricate watercolors to create visual narratives of her Iroquois background. As a member of the Turtle Clan of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, one of the Six Nations of the Iroquois, she uses her watercolors and woodcuts to connect traditional and present day Woodland Indian ideas, philosophies, and stories. Her creative process is exemplified in this work, which she created as part of an effort to take "painting outside of the box." The idea of circles kept occurring to her as she thought about this concept, and she was intrigued by the possibility of a circular, cylindrical painting. She wanted to make a painting that was 3-D in nature and therefore integrated the top of the cylinder as a field on which to include part of the painting's narrative.

Justification for Accessioning: This piece was made by an IARC artist fellow and is characteristic of her work. This would be the first example of this artist's work in the collection. It would also be IARC's first example of a cylindrical painting.

Recommendation: Recommended for accession.

Collections Review Report - Standard



Obj. Number: TIN.2015-1-1

Class.: Painting

Item Name: Painting

Date: 2007

Culture: Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin

Date Rem.: Date included in signature on work.

Artist or Maker: Dawn Dark Mountain

Title: "Little Turtle's Journey"

Description: Cylindrical watercolor painting on paper. Scene of a sky with thirty stars in it, a sun, a lightning bolt, clouds, water, and four turtles. The stars, sun rays, and lightning bolt are cut out and painted blue around their edges. The interior of the cylinder is painted yellow, so yellow is visible behind the star, sunray, and lightning cut outs.

The painting consists of the cylinder, a top, and a bottom, all on the same type of heavy watercolor paper. The top and bottom are glued to the cylinder portion via tabs that are bent toward the center of the cylinder; they're visible, upon close inspection, through the cut out shapes in the cylinder. The clouds at the top edge of the work are also glued to the cylinder.

The scene illustrates a portion of a version of the Iroquois creation story in which Little Turtle collects lightning bolts to create the sun and moon. The four turtles depicted in the work are all representations of Little Turtle at different points in the story. The half-circle shapes at the bottom edge of the piece, with what looks like a plant sprout growing from the top of each one, are based on an Iroquois beadwork pattern. They represent the sky dome and the celestial tree that are explained in another part of the Iroquois creation story, in which Skywoman fell from her home in the sky through a hole at the roots of the celestial tree.

Materials: paper | paint, watercolor

Dimensions: 28.5 × 20 cm (11 1/4 × 7 7/8 in.)

Signed: Bottom edge, to left of where side edges glued together: "Dawn Dark Mountain © 2007"

Inscription:

Tribal Collection

Review Remarks:

Tribal Instructions:

Notes: Jennifer Day, Registrar, 7/24/2015: At the time the painting was donated, the artist also provided display container made of a wooden "lazy Susan" base with a glass dome cover, inside which the painting was presented. She explained that the display container is for the purpose of preventing dust settling from settling on the painting or people from touching it. She stated that it isn't an integral part of the work and that the painting may be displayed without it.

Researcher

Comments:

Acquisition Const.: Donor Dawn Dark Mountain

Ex-Coll. Const.:

Provenance:

Accession Method: (none assigned)

Accession Date:

Acquisition Lot:

Object Status: Not Accessioned