

FROELICK GALLERY

For immediate release:

Solo Exhibit:

Rick Bartow

Regarding Rascals:

Drawings, 1979 - 2015

January 16 – February 24, 2018

First Thursday Reception: February 1, 2018, 5pm – 8:00pm

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10:30 to 5:30pm



Using Coyote's tail for a brush and Raven's beak to make my marks, I am blind to my destination. I begin to erase marks, attempting to cover my tracks and, like forgetful Coyote, I lose my way. Yet the record of my comings and goings is visible like the lines left by the tide as it advances and recedes.

Drawing comes from inside my head, down my arm, to my hand. As the work begins to intensify, there is little of importance below the armpits. My legs carry me back and forth in front of the drawing. Occasionally I blindly run into objects, cussing and moving on from the shock of the collision.

The marks become little dictators. They demand my attention and, sometimes, even my blood as fingers crack and bleed. Still I believe in the power of drawing as medicine.

-Rick Bartow, 2001

This exhibition of works on paper represents many of the themes that **Rick Bartow** (1946 - 2016) returned to over the scope of his career, from his earliest serious artmaking to the twilight of his prolific final months. Art-historical and literary references, sharp-eyed ravens, wild-looking dogs, coyotes, self-portraits and images of Native people are present. While many of

the drawings in this show- and the preponderance of those he created- are active, color-filled pastel pieces, this exhibition is bracketed chronologically by a 1979 portrait of an aged Monet in densely-applied graphite and an understated 2015 female/bird figure in ink and gouache. The works in between these track the growth of his personal iconography and his exploration and understanding of materials on his road to mastery.

Froelick Gallery remains committed, as ever, to Rick Bartow and his legacy, and we will continue our efforts in concert with the Richard E. Bartow Estate to ensure his works are widely seen and placed in museum, public and private collections.

Born in Newport, Oregon, in 1946, Rick Bartow was a member of the Wiyot tribe of Northern California and was a veteran of the Vietnam war (1969 - 1971). His work has been featured in many solo and group exhibits nationally and internationally. Career highlights include completion of *We Were Always Here*, a monumental double pole sculpture commissioned by The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, which stands on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.; inclusion in a three-person exhibit at the School of Sacred Music, Yale University, New Haven, CT; and works on view at the United States Ambassador's residences in Sofia, Bulgaria and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *Things You Know but Cannot Explain*, a traveling retrospective exhibition organized by the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art/University of Oregon, will be on view at the Schingoethe Center, Aurora University, Aurora, IL; the Autry Museum, Los Angeles, CA; and the High Desert Museum, Bend, OR; the C.N. Gorman Museum, Davis, CA into 2019.

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