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MELANIE YAZZIE: PEACE WALKING

January 29 – May 29, 2023



Interdisciplinary artist Melanie Yazzie uses iconography of dogs, birds, corn, butterflies and female figures to tell a deeply personal story through her multi-layered paintings, prints and sculptures. *Peace Walking* is Yazzie's interpretation and meditation on the Diné (Navajo) prayer "Walking in Beauty" that to her is about "putting good into the world. Planting seeds, planting friendships, making connections with people outside and inside of your community." The exhibition, on view in the Freyer – Newman Center at the Gardens' York Street location from January 29 - May 29, 2023, is included with general admission.

Peace Walking features more than 40 paintings, monotype prints and bronze and aluminum sculptures. The paintings were created for this exhibition and the sculptures range in size from small tabletop pieces to up to six feet tall.

Drawing on childhood memories, stories from her global travels and her experiences as a contemporary Diné (Navajo) artist, Yazzie invites viewers to use nature to connect with the narratives of their own lives. The Dacono, Colorado-based artist's work is intended to convey wonder and peace while encouraging viewers to engage more deeply with complex Indigenous experiences.

Related Programs [\(calendar\)](#)

- **Printmaking Workshop with Melanie Yazzie:** Saturday, February 4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Exhibitions Reception:** Friday, February 24, 5-8 p.m.
- **Artist Talk:** Thursday, March 9, 6 p.m.

About the Artist

Melanie Yazzie's work draws upon her personal experience as a contemporary Diné woman. Yazzie has exhibited widely in the United States and abroad. Her work is included in permanent collections at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art (RISD) in Providence, RI; the Museum of Contemporary

Native Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico; and the Kennedy Museum of Art at Ohio University, Athens, OH, among others. Yazzie is currently professor of arts practices and head of printmaking at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is represented by Glenn Green Galleries in Santa Fe, NM.

Images (left to right): Melanie Yazzie, *He is With Us*, 2022, acrylic and mixed media. Melanie Yazzie, *Growing Stronger*, bronze, 2010. Photo: Courtesy of Glenn Green Galleries. Melanie Yazzie, *Two Sisters*, 2022, acrylic and mixed media.

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About Denver Botanic Gardens: Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens was founded in 1951 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Gardens has a robust living plant collection, natural history collection and art collection along with temporary art exhibitions. The Gardens is a dynamic, 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class art exhibitions and education programs in the Freyer – Newman Center; plant conservation efforts and horticultural research. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Goliath is a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Evans Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org.