

Jim Yellowhawk

Spirito Lakota Lakota Spirit



MAUNA KEA
EDIZIONI

JIM YELLOWHAWK's BIOGRAPHY

Jim Yellowhawk grew up on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. He is an enrolled member of the Itazipco Band of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and of the Onondaga, Iroquois Nation, on his mother's side. Yellowhawk has been immersed in the arts of his ancestors since he was a young boy. His paternal grandmother Annie Yellowhawk was a traditional Lakota beadworker¹ and role model for traditional ways, and his father, Jerry Yellowhawk, is a passionate artist in a variety of mediums.

Jim Yellowhawk is an internationally known artist, acclaimed for his traditional Native American ledger art²; depicting Lakota spiritual and cultural heritage, as well as his famed contemporary with mixed media and socio-political art, both shown in galleries around the world.

Jim holds a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts, Marion College, Indiana, and studied at Columbus College of Art and Design, Ohio. Jim shares his Lakota culture through traditional Lakota dance, where he is invited to perform for audiences throughout the world. He currently resides in the Black Hills³ of South Dakota.

Yellowhawk says: "Traditional spirituality is woven into my daily life, work, practices, and way of being. It keeps me in balance and guides my creative processes. The horse, buffalo, elk, geese and eagle nations⁴ are often represented in my art, in honor of the four winds⁵. While my art comprises diverse media forms, my current passion is for ledger art, a traditional way of recording history for the native peoples in America. My techniques vary according to the feel of each piece. I like to

experiment and challenge myself. I would like to leave my mark as an artist in a way that serves all people, and I very much hope to provide a strong and positive role model for native youth”.

His native name is Tawoihamble Kpago that means “One who marks his dreams”. Jim says: “I remember as a young Lakota/Iroquois boy sitting and daydreaming looking over the beautiful rowing hills on the Cheyenne River Reservation, the homeland of my Ancestors. While sitting and daydreaming, I was thinking:

‘What is store for me in the future, for this young Lakota boy’. Art came to my young mind. I always wanted to be an Artist. I was fortunate to have a solid upbringing. Where others had a struggle living on the Reservation. From that day when I was sitting and daydreaming, I decided Art would be my life’s path. It has been a beautiful and hard path at times. But I’m doing what I love, that’s Art. I thank Tunkashila/Creator everyday. I have never considered myself as a master artist. I feel I am learning something new every day. I love to challenge myself in trying something new. Art is endless in what you can do. I am blessed if I can help people who are going thru something and see something in my Art that makes them laugh, cry, or learn something new. Art is healing. I encourage young people to follow their dreams. If you put your mind and heart into it, ‘It will happen’.

Mitakuye Oyasin⁶/We’re all Related

Tawoihamble Kpago “One who marks his dreams”

Want to humbly thank Mauna Kea Publishing for doing this book on “One who marks his dreams”.

To the Lakota Oyate⁷ and Iroquois Nation and to all nations of the world. And to honor and to give thanks to my parents and Ancestors who paved a path for us today.
Tunkashila Omakiyayo Tehiyelo⁸



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Being with the Ancestors - Essere con gli Antenati

Year 2019 - Anno 2019

Technique: pencil, ink, 1895 ledger paper

Tecnica: matita, inchiostro, carta di libro mastro del 1895



Buffalo Hunt 1895 - Caccia al Bisonte 1895

Year 2019 - Anno 2019

Technique: pencil, ink, 1895 ledger paper, moving warrior

Tecnica: matita, inchiostro, carta di libro mastro del 1895,
guerriero semovente



Buffalo Nation -Nazione del Bisonte

Year 2017 - Anno 2017

Technique: pencil, ink, rawhide medicine wheel⁹, handmade paper

Tecnica: matita, inchiostro, ruota della medicina⁹ di pelle non
conciata, carta fatta a mano



Dancing with the Stars - Danzando con le Stelle

Year 2019 - Anno 2019

Technique: pencil, ink, 1895 ledger paper

Tecnica: matita, inchiostro, carta di libro mastro del 1895



Spirito Lakota

Honoring the Horse Nation - Onorando la Nazione del Cavallo

Year 2016 - Anno 2016

Technique: acrylic on canvas

Tecnica: acrilico su tela



Buffalo Nation in 3D - Nazione del Bisonte in 3D

Year 2018 - Anno 2018

Technique: pencil, ink, ledger paper, on three layers

Tecnica: matita, inchiostro, carta di libro mastro, su tre livelli