

Jontay Kahm at
The Autry:
Fossil 2.0 with
Pebble Mask,
2023; Autry
Museum



Native Fashion Up Close & Personal

This fall, experience the breathtaking creations of Indigenous designers from throughout Indian Country up close and personal at The Autry in Los Angeles, California, and Spencer Museum of Art in Kansas.

Even if you don't know the designers behind these beautiful pieces, you'll likely recognize the designs on social media or runway recaps. Museums across Indian Country are set to open fashion exhibitions that explore the diversity and ingenuity of Native style and dress and feature a broad range of historical and contemporary works of wearable art.

Los Angeles, California-based The Autry is opening the highly anticipated exhibition *Future Imaginaries: Indigenous Art, Fashion, Technology* this Fall. The exhibition explores the rise of Futurism within contemporary Indigenous art as a means of enduring colonial trauma, creating alternative futures, and advocating for Indigenous knowledge systems as vital to achieving social justice in the present and sustainable communities going forward.

As the artist Rose Simpson (Santa Clara Pueblo) explains, from her perspective, the idea of apocalypse is "an opportunity for innovation and for reflection and renewal. In a sense...Indigenous people have been at a privilege when it comes to any kind of hardship because we've already survived." With the rise of the Red Power and the American Indian Movement in the 1970s, Native artists began looking to science fiction. They imagined futures to reclaim agency within an increasingly technological society by re-imagining aspects of pre-contact cultures, such as sovereignty, Indigenous technologies, and sustainable lifeways in dialogue with contemporary life and future imaginaries.

Indigenous artists today are redefining what constitutes Native American art, helping their communities to heal from intergenerational trauma and creating pathways to a better life for Indigenous peoples and our shared planet. Featuring works

of art ranging in size from jewelry and elaborately dressed mannequins to monumental sculptures and room-sized installations, *Future Imaginaries* will intersperse works throughout the museum, creating unexpected encounters and dialogues between contemporary Indigenous creations and historical works from the Autry collections. The exhibition comprises approximately 58 works, including 50 loans, most directly from the artists. At least 9 new works are being created for the exhibition, including the site-specific installations *ReVolt 1680/2180: Sirens and Sikas* by Virgil Ortiz and *Stirs Up the Dust* by Wendy Red Star.

Future Imaginaries: Indigenous Art, Fashion, Technology is open from September 7, 2024, to June 21, 2026, at The Autry in Los Angeles, California.

Native Fashion, an exhibition that explores the diversity and ingenuity of wearable artworks produced by Native people from the 19th century to today, is also opening this fall at the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas. The exhibition, representing over forty tribal nations, will feature traditional garments, contemporary couture and streetwear, and an expansive array of accessories, including jewelry, bags, and other adornments.

Among the contemporary artists featured in the exhibition are Teri Greeves (Kiowa), Lily Hope (Tlingit), Jamie Okuma (Luiseno, Shoshone-Bannock, Wailaki, and Okinawan), Patricia Michaels (Taos Pueblo), Jontay Kahm (Plains Cree), Chris Pappan (Osage, Kaw, Cheyenne River Lakota), Kevin Pourier (Oglala Lakota), Rhonda Holy Bear (Cheyenne River Lakota), Ryan Redcorn (Osage), Wendy Red Star (Apsáalooke), Cara Romero (Chemehuevi), and Diego Romero (Cochiti Pueblo), among numerous others. *Native Fashion* also includes works produced in collaboration with major brands such as Nike, Ralph Lau-

ren, and Mattel, as well as historical objects, photographs, and drawings capturing the trajectory of Native innovation and style through time.

Native Fashion examines the importance of fashion and adornment to express tribal and personal identity in the broader contexts of Indigenous lifeways. The role of fashion is explored in four overarching themes:

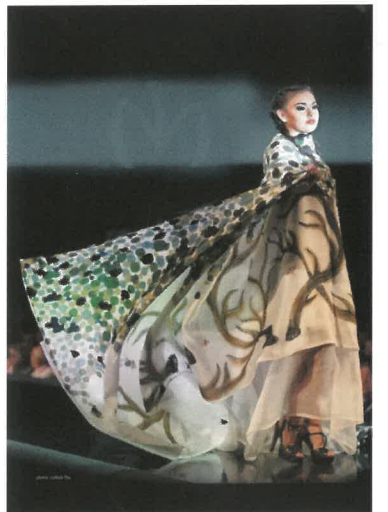
- "Resilience" explores Indigenous innovation and resourcefulness in using and developing materials and techniques.
- "Representation" celebrates the diversity of tribal nations and features various traditional and contemporary dress styles.
- "Resistance" examines the impact of colonization, government policies, and activism on Indigenous identity and dress, including how activist groups utilize wearable symbols for awareness and solidarity.
- "Relations" highlights connections between people and place and features artists, designers, and storytellers from Lawrence—where the Spencer is located—and the surrounding region.

In addition to the exhibition, on December 14, 2024, the Spencer will host a runway show to highlight contemporary Native fashion and celebrate Native designers from the region in the fall of 2024. The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of workshops for aspiring Native designers and models, led by Native fashion writer Dr. Jessica Metcalfe (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), designer and filmmaker Steven Paul Judd (Kiowa, Choctaw), and designer, filmmaker, and model Peshawn Bread (Comanche, Kiowa, Cherokee).

The exhibition will be on view from September 1, 2024, through January 5, 2025.



Virgil Ortiz at The Autry:
Jai Nopek, Recon Watchman, 2022;
courtesy of the artist.



Patricia Michaels at the Spencer
Museum of Art:
Michaels' Antlers In Aspen Meadows,
2019; courtesy of the artist.



Teri Greeves at the Spencer Museum
of Art:
Greeves' Spider Woman/Emerging
Woman, 2015; photo by E.G. Schempf.