

Artrain USA: a contemporary Native American traveling art exhibition

April 15, 2004

Tempe was the inaugural site for Artrain USA's 2004 national-touring art exhibition: *Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture*.

This contemporary Native American exhibition premiered onboard Artrain USA with a special guest gala reception and press preview along the railroad tracks between First Street and Farmer Avenue.

Artrain USA traveled with the Native Views exhibition through 2007 to as many as 120 communities across America and welcome about 300,000 visitors.

With this exhibition, Guest Curator Joanna Bigfeather (Western Cherokee and Mes-calero Apache) intended to redefine Native American art by broadening the limitations and eliminating the stereotypes that currently define it. Through the variety of media included in the exhibition, Native American artists examine their rich heritage, and fold these perspectives into current cultural images.

By viewing these works, it was hoped that visitors would come to understand some of the misconceptions about Native people, be introduced to the many commonalities Native and non-Native people share and consider the



"Daybreak" by Joe Maktima

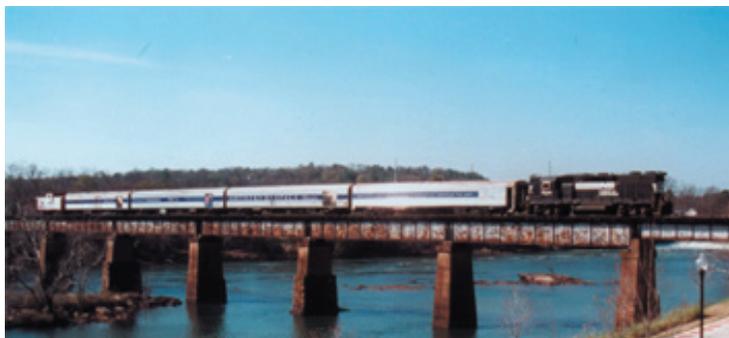
complexity of American culture. Visitors to the exhibition toured the galleries, viewed Artrain USA's resident and local volunteer artists, who were demonstrating their skills and visited the gift shop.

Artrain, USA, founded in 1971, is headquartered in Ann Arbor, Mich. With five rail cars housing an art exhibition, artist's studio, gift shop and staff administrative space, Artrain USA travels the country via the nation's railroads. As America's museum in motion, Artrain USA

fulfills its mission of enriching lives and building communities through the arts by bringing art exhibitions and educational art programs to communities without access to traditional museums and by encouraging the development of local cultural programs. Since its inception, Artrain USA has presented its exhibitions and related art education programs in about 730 cities in 44 states and welcomed more than 2.9 million visitors.

The city of Tempe, the Heard Museum, Atlatl, Inc., Arizona Community Foundation and Arizona State University Public Events partnered to present Artrain USA's visit in Tempe. To learn more about Artrain USA and see

images from Native Views visit the Artrain USA website at www.ArtrainUSA.org.



Artrain USA en route.