

Becoming KIN



I AM MY RELATIVES all of them. I am related to everything

As we begin this work,
and it will be work.
I hope that you
have somebody
to do it with you.

Let's go.

Coyote visits some relatives
from out west | River Garza |
Tongva

This painting depicts Coyote
visiting Tapuanu masks from
the Mortlock islands.
Coyote visits from Pimu
(Catalina Island) and stands in
admiration and familiarity
when visiting the
Tapuanu masks.

How do you recognize someone as a relative?

Relational RECIPROcity



First, there were the people of rock and stone, then came the plant people, next the animals, and lastly, humans.

Think of where you live.

What is the name of the closest body of water?

What is the name of the nearest mountain?

What constellations light the sky above your home each season?

Before you take something, you must give.

Best practice in three steps:

1. Set your intention
2. Share an offering
3. Continue to care after you take

teachings by Tongva elder & artist Craig Torres



How are you conducting yourself in the landscape?

Basket PERSPECTIVE



"In the Pacific, we use baskets not boxes."

—Jon Tikivanotau M. Jonassen,
Cook Islands master heritage artist

Consider the beliefs and practices
you keep in your basket.

*What is trying to escape from your basket?
Grant yourself permission to let them go.*

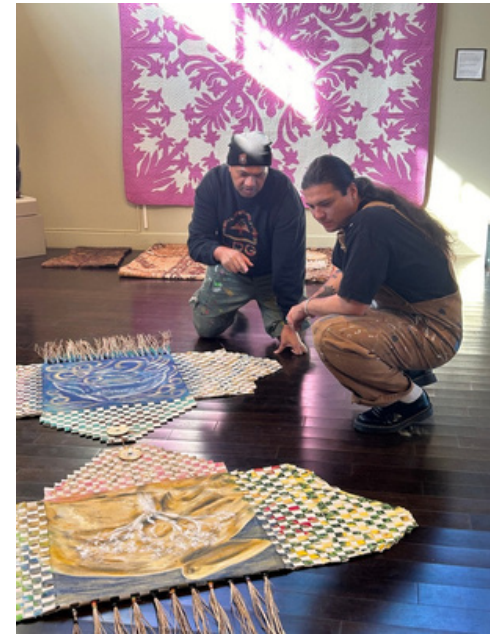
ARTISTS *of the saltwater*

This is our land acknowledgement practiced in ceremony between indigenous artists (Tongva & Pasifika) of the saltwater.

Humans have the responsibility and obligation to take care and be part of the whole of nature.

"It is important for people to know that these are not gestural acts but a tradition of indigenous communities sharing and extending respect, honor, and spirit."

—Cindi Alvitre,
Tongva guest curator & artist





In the face of the settler-colonialism and erasure that plagues Oceania and her descendants, these practice of care widens avenues toward restorative justice by increasing access to our indigenous histories, traditions, and ways of knowing.

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