

The Integration of Cultural Material and Contemporary Art Conservation for the Exhibit “Kay WalkingStick: An American Artist” at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI)



Kelly McHugh
Objects Conservator, NMAI

Jia-sun Tsang
Senior Paintings Conservator, MCI

The exhibition, *Kay WalkingStick: An American Artist*, will be open at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) from November 7, 2015 to September 18, 2016. This is the first major retrospective of the artistic career of Kay WalkingStick, an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation and one of the most notable artists of Native American heritage. The exhibition afforded the artist and conservators at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) the opportunity to engage in a holistic and interdisciplinary preservation initiative. It focused not only on preparing the paintings for the exhibit, but also looked at the long term preservation needs of Kay WalkingStick’s works. Paintings Conservator Jia-Sun Tsang (MCI) and Objects Conservator, Kelly McHugh (NMAI) worked together, utilizing the expertise from their respective disciplines as well as long standing methodologies employed by NMAI conservation for collaboration with Native American stakeholders. The presentation will touch on the intersection between the conservation of cultural material and contemporary art.

Left Photo: Kay WalkingStick at artist material and technique workshop NMAI Conservation studio 2015
Right Photo: *New Mexico Desert 2011* by KayWalkStick at *KayWalkSticks: An American Artist* at NMAI

MCI Topics in Museum Conservation

December 9, 2015
10:45 am
Wednesday

MCI Theater
MUSEUM SUPPORT CENTER
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, MD 20746
301-238-1240



Smithsonian
Museum Conservation Institute