

***Ozone Madonna* by Bob Haozous**



Artist Introduction

Bob Haozous (Chiricahua Apache/Navajo) was born in 1943 to Anna Marie Gallegos (Navajo) and Allan Houser (Chiricahua Apache). Haozous' art includes sculpture, portraiture, and multimedia. In his sculpture work Haozous uses materials such as steel and wood, accompanied by paint. He often incorporates social commentary into his art, conveying messages on current events and social issues.

Art and Activism

Art can be a way for artists to talk about complex issues happening in their community or current events around the world. Haozous created *Ozone Madonna* out of mahogany wood from the South American rainforest to acknowledge the destruction of the environment that has been occurring for many years, and more specifically the destruction of the South American rainforest. The 1980s was a time when we began to more fully understand the environmental impacts of such things as cars, urban development, toxic waste disposal, and wildfires caused by land mismanagement. Many Indigenous artists and environmental activists began to raise more awareness of climate change during this time.

About the Art

Ozone Madonna was created in 1989. The sculpture presents a self-portrait of Western society. Haozous painted green trees on her swimsuit to represent the rainforest. The rainforest has often been referred to as the Earth's lungs. The cars represent the smog they produce. Her eyes are red, which symbolizes the smog rising and irritating her eyes. Her hands are raised above her head as if she is in shock or has had enough.

Discussion Questions

What might your own sculpture on these ideas include?

What do you think the artist's color choices symbolize?

Why do you think the artist used wood from the rainforest?

What do you think the cars represent?

How does this sculpture address the environment?

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