



**COLLEGE OF  
PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS**  
SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

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Ashley H Pollock, Public Relations & Information Coordinator  
College of Performing and Visual Arts  
Southern Utah University

Office: 435-865-8667  
Cell: 435-590-0961  
pollocka@suu.edu

### **Keeping Heritage Alive with Gina Adams**

Written by Tracy Solimeno

**Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah:** Artist Gina Adams will be presenting her lecture, *The Object and the Shadow of Other Peoples Stories*, at the Southern Utah Museum of Art on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for the SUU Department of Art & Design's Art Insights series. Adams will discuss how art can be a bridge between ourselves and heritage and talk about her Native American culturally based artwork. Admission to Art Insights is free and open to the public.

Adams is best known for the reuse of antique quilts featuring the words of broken treaties between the United States and Native American tribes, however, her works span a wide range of artistic styles and mediums including sculpture, ceramics, painting, printmaking and drawing.

Russell Wrangle, Assistant Professor of 3D, Sculpture, and Foundations at SUU College of Performing and Visual Arts, brought Adams to our community because, "Gina is an elegant and graceful educator and artist, she chooses media that best serves her idea. I also felt that her perspective and point of view as a Native American Artist is needed in our community."

Adams is a descendant of both indigenous and colonial Americans. Art has become a way to pass down memories and keep her genetic heritage alive. Through visual storytelling, viewers gain a better understanding of who her ancestors were and how all of us are similar to them. Adams feels that, "The process of making gives her an identity and an ancestral connection. In this I feel that I have been creating work that re-contextualizes the sense of the sacred and the ritual object."

Her work is exhibited extensively throughout the US and resides in many public and private collections. In 2015 Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art launched her art career *with Its Honor Is Here Pledged* and *Broken Treaty Quilts*. In 2016 she was SARF Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow, and *had Its Honor Is Hereby Pledged* exhibitions in Boulder Colorado at Naropa University's White Cube Gallery where she is a Faculty in Visual Arts. In the summer of 2017, Gina presented and exhibited at the AIW Conference at Goldsmiths College, University of London, England.

Gina's formal education includes a BFA from the Maine College of Art and MFA from the University of Kansas, where she focused on Visual Art, Curatorial Practice and Critical Theory.

Art Insights is hosted during the fall and spring semesters by SUU's Art & Design faculty. Students and community members meet to experience presentations and discussions by visiting artists and art educators from around the nation who share their work and insights.

Be inspired by Gina Adams as she shares the personal and historical story of her ancestors through her artwork. For more information, please visit [www.suu.edu/pva](http://www.suu.edu/pva).

### **About the College of Performing and Visual Arts**

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, and Dance. The College also offers programs in Theatre Arts, graduate programs in Arts Administration and Music, as well as a Center for Shakespeare Studies. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Music Education and Master of Music in Music Technology graduate degrees. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring nearly 600 majors in the College. Over 1,100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents over 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), Utah Shakespeare Festival and SUU's Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit [www.suu.edu/pva](http://www.suu.edu/pva).

### **For Calendar Editors: Keeping Heritage Alive with Gina Adams**

**What:** Artist Gina Adams will be presenting her lecture, *The Object and the Shadow of Other Peoples Stories*, at the Southern Utah Museum of Art on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for the SUU Department of Art & Design's Art Insights series. Adams will discuss how art can be a bridge between ourselves and heritage and talk about her Native American culturally based artwork. Admission to Art Insights is free and open to the public.

**Who:** Art Insights, Southern Utah University, Department of Art & Design

**When:** Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Southern Utah Museum of Art, 13 S 300 W, Cedar City, Utah

**Tickets:** Free admission, General Public invited to attend

**Info:** Visit [www.suu.edu/pva](http://www.suu.edu/pva) for more information.

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