



NOCONA BURGESS

Tribal Affiliation: Comanche

Contact Exhibit C Native Gallery & Gifts for pricing

Nocona Burgess presents strikingly modern depictions of Indigenous men and women from the Southern Plains tribes. His paintings mix careful research, firsthand knowledge and raw passion. By combining brightly colored shapes with crisply outlined facial features and traditional dress, Burgess explores the cultural context, life story and identity of each sitter. In this way, Nocona urges us to update our perceptions of Native peoples and consider the intriguing and often highly politicized place of Native American portraiture.

Burgess is the son of a former tribal chief and is the great-great-grandson of one of the most revered Native American leaders, Chief Quanah Parker. Burgess grew up surrounded by art. His father went to art school to focus on drawing and painting and his grandmothers made quills and beadwork from their own designs.

In 1989, Nocona Burgess fully developed his artistic talents at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He was fascinated by how more traditional forms of Native Art evolve into contemporary movements. This fascination came to define his focus, leading him to reinterpret traditionally inspired portraits with his own modern slant. It is the notion of the modern Indian that he seeks in his work and recognizes in himself.

By painting with vibrant pigments onto dark backgrounds Burgess has perfected a method that he describes as “painting outward.” This approach produces the richly contrasting colors of his distinctive canvases and gives his art a vivid depth. Burgess’ paintings inspire and educate through their unusual techniques and positive dialogues between past and present.

Painting for Burgess is a way of reaching out to others. He strives for an intimate connection with each subject, eager to know their characters. Through his paintings Burgess says thank you to his ancestors for their sacrifice in helping to make the contemporary Native identity what it is today.

Nocona Burgess’ paintings have received numerous awards and have been featured in many publications. He exhibits throughout the United States and beyond in Australia, England, South Africa and Sweden. They can also be found in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.; Bristol Museum in Bristol, England; American Museum in Bath, England; Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, New Mexico and many more.

1. “Warrior” / Acrylic on Canvas / 12H x 12H
2. “Quanah Parker #2” / Acrylic on Canvas / 14H x 11W
3. “Numu Kutsu (Horizon)” / Acrylic on Canvas / 18H x 24W
4. “Sister” / Acrylic on Canvas / 16H x 12W
5. “Numu Kutsu (Moon)” / Acrylic on Canvas / 18H x 24W
6. “Whirling Horse” / Acrylic on Canvas / 12H x 16W



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