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## Erin Lee Antonak

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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Erin Lee Antonak

Oneida Indian Nation, Wolf Clan



*“I am Wolf Clan, from the Oneida Indian Nation of New York. I often consider the things we pass down between generations. I grew up learning Iroquois crafts from my elders. I look at my hands when I am working using traditional techniques and consider how they are the result of women’s hands working in the same way over many generations. Working in this way ties me to my lineage and creates a space for me to*

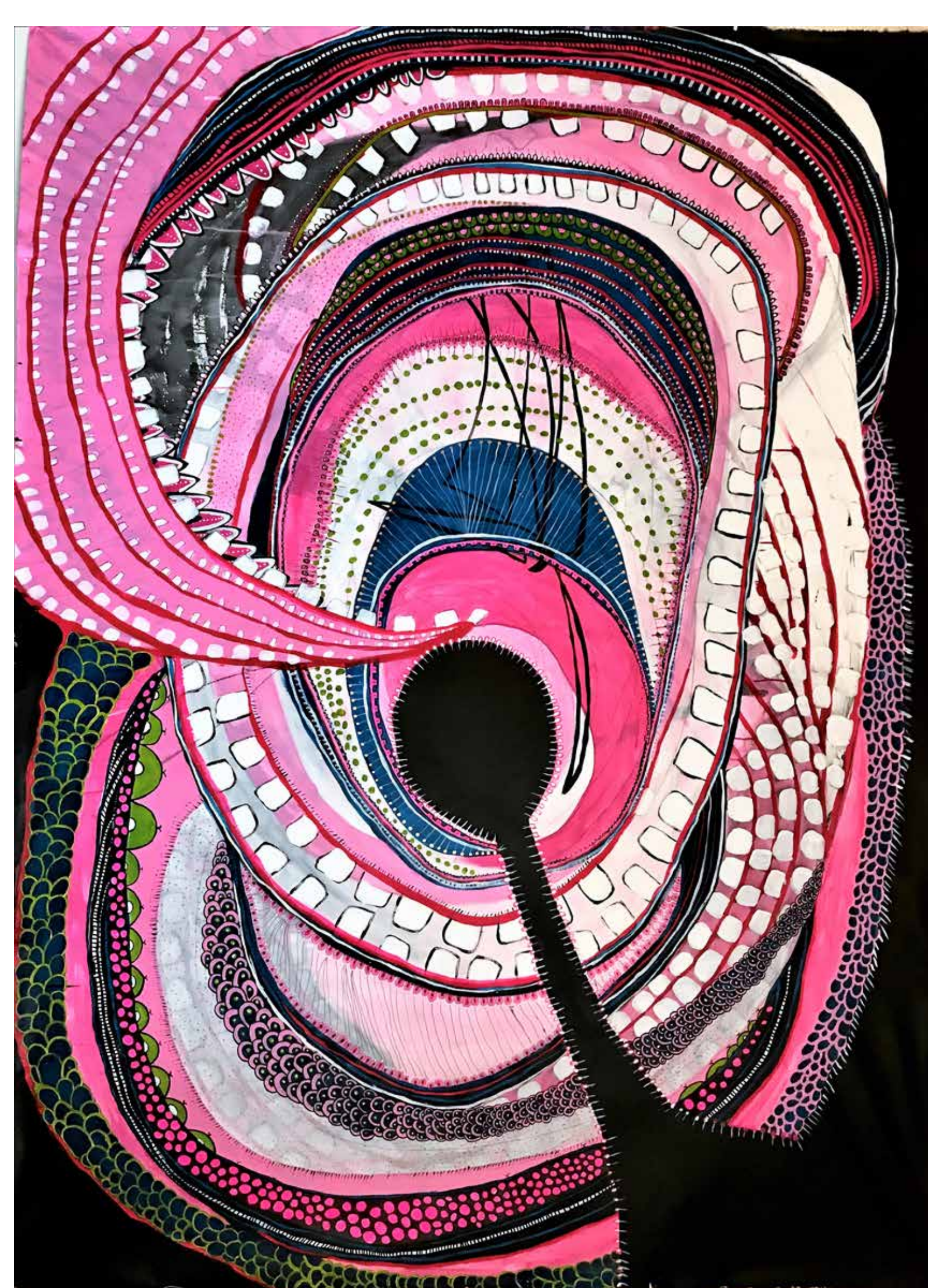
*contemplate my humanness and connectedness to the past and the future. This work represents knowledge about life and healing sent through time from my ancestral mothers. I reflect on the lives of my matrilineal ancestors, who they were, and the challenges they faced. It is comforting and empowering to know my own life is proof of their ability to persevere through extraordinarily difficult circumstances.”*



At Left:  
Installation of  
If I Knew Then,  
Mixed Media  
  
Below Left to Right:  
Creation Story,  
Acrylic and  
Charcoal on Canvas  
  
Salt Bottle  
with Skydomes,  
Cornhusk, corn  
kernals, fermented  
corn, plastic



LEARN MORE!  
Snap this QR  
code to connect  
to the artist's  
website.



Erin Lee Antonak says her artwork is “a portrait of what it is to be a modern Iroquois woman and claims my place in the great chain of Iroquois women before and after me.” She manipulates contemporary materials using ancient techniques and uses traditional materials in contemporary ways. By doing this, Erin is creating a link between herself and her ancestors. She often references time travel and portals (mental, physical, or otherwise), openings to other worlds and other possibilities, wormholes for the past, present, and future to communicate through. She explores issues of identity and trauma and poses individual and collective methods for self-healing, self-soothing, mourning, and mitigating loneliness.

