

Fall 2022

April Branham

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INDIGENOUS APPALACHIA

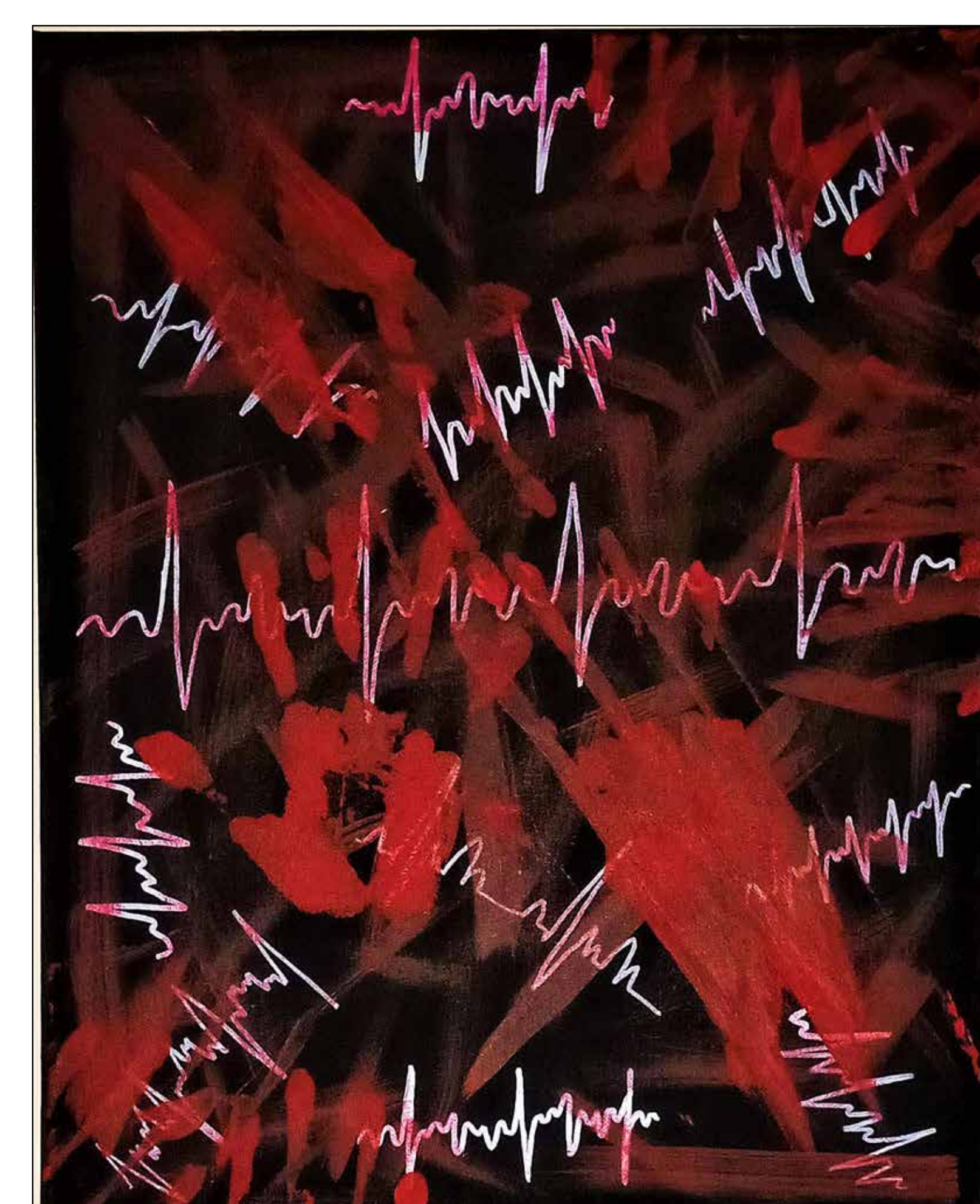
ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



April Branham Monacan

“My brushstrokes mimic the movement of the fringe, and the strong lines and angles used are inspired by the mountains where I grew up. I prefer using acrylic paints for my works because of the vibrant colors available. Although not all of my works consist of Indigenous Art, they all have the same principles applied. Being able to express myself artistically has opened my eyes to all the beauty of my ancestors and of this world and I want to share it with as many as possible. Art is a way for me to help preserve some of the cultural traditions that my family has passed on to me, and I can pass it down to others in my works on display. Art has made my life more fulfilling, and I hope to participate in preserving our history and bringing joy to others through my art for as long as I am able.”

April Branham is a member of the Monacan Indian Nation based in Amherst County, Virginia. She considers art a vital role in the community that helps to preserve Monacan heritage and cultural traditions. April is inspired by the mountains where her family resides and the many colors of dancers’ regalia at powwows. She believes that art gives a voice to those that no longer have one. In 2021, she decided to bring awareness to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement by exhibiting paintings of the iconic red handprint. The Ann White Academy Gallery in Lynchburg, VA displayed one of the MMIW paintings. Her works convey emotions and are designed to draw the observer closer to the art, both physically and mentally.



Clockwise, Top Left:
#NotOneMore, 2021
Bustle, 2021
Misery, 2021
Soar, 2021

All are Acrylic on Canvas.

At left:
MMIW, 2022
Face painting to promote awareness of missing or murdered Indian women.



LEARN MORE!
Snap this QR code to become more aware of issues within Indian Country and read about her art.

