

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 20 works on show
Oct. 24-Nov. 7, 2008

Blue Rain Gallery
130 Lincoln Ave, Suite D
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 954-9902

SHOW LOCATION SANTA FE, NM



SARAH SENSE

Revolutionizing Hollywood Westerns

Emerging mixed media artist Sarah Sense strives to reinvent the narratives of Hollywood's Western films by recreating a motion picture through still images. Her assemblages start with large-scale prints that she cuts into small strips and weaves together using traditional Chitimacha basket patterns, which are based on her ancestry. Sense's weavings feature the designs of blackbirds eye and rabbit's foot. The Chitimacha tribe,

located in Louisiana, is noted for its fine basket weaving that dates back to at least the early 1700s.

"I feel that it's part of my responsibility to continue the tradition of basket weaving," says Sense. "It's important to me and the patterns are amazing."

Blue Rain Gallery will introduce new assemblages by Sense beginning Oct. 24 through Nov. 7. In these new works, Sense deconstructs five movie posters into a series

of four assemblages, each an intricate commentary on popular culture, sexuality, power struggle, and conflict. In each woven assemblage Sense uses the movie poster, digital prints of herself, visuals of cowgirls, princesses, and Native Americans, as well as clear and mirrored Mylar.

"I'm trying to physically and psychologically deconstruct the movie and change the narrative to empower women and Indians," explains Sense.



Sex Is In The Mouth (detail), weavings with mirrored and clear Mylar, 30 x 40"



Reagan (detail), weavings with clear Mylar, 29½ x 32½"

The Gallery Says . . .

"Sarah Sense's mixed media interpretations of gender roles, cultural heritage and prevailing ideologies associated with media and Hollywood icons provide the viewer with a cross cultural experience that exists as art and sociology. Her work makes a brave and necessary statement about contemporary Native American culture in relationship to the broader American landscape."

—Denise Phetteplace, director, Blue Rain Gallery



Play Dead (detail), weavings with mirrored and clear Mylar, 9¾ x 49½"



Gone With Him (detail), weavings with clear Mylar, 9¾ x 41"

Her art, in essence, changes the focus of the poster and reinvents the narrative that runs through it. The assemblages also represent the interplay of the Sense's Native American background and contemporary culture and the many dualities she finds: cowboy/Indian, cowboy/cowgirl, motion/still, good/bad, East/West.

Using vintage movie posters that she has collected over the years, Sense zooms in on different parts of the poster, such as an actor's head or body part, and weaves herself through it.

"I suppose that I like using images from old Westerns because these films were made in a time when motion picture was beginning to reach the masses. The impact that Hollywood's fictional narratives had on the American people's perception of reality was unfathomable," says Sense. "By imposing myself into these historical images, I feel like I am bringing old Western films into the contemporary world and reinventing the narrative by recreating a motion picture through still images. The Chitimacha basket weave holds the images together and brings

the realities of Native culture from the past to the present."

In the piece titled *Gone With Him*, Sense weaves herself into Scarlett O'Hara in the first frame, in the next she removes herself, and in the third frame she points a gun at Rhett Butler.

"I gave Scarlett the opportunity to fight back and take control of the situation," explains Sense.

The *Reagan* series, comprised of four pieces, takes aim at the late actor-turned-president, Ronald Reagan,



using bright colors and fun imagery with sensual undertones.

In another assemblage, *One To Take Her, One To Love Her, One To Kill Her*, Sense weaves herself into a woman who has three men surrounding her, but she has a gun and is pointing it to the viewer. Below her are cowboys dying from a shootout.

"In these pieces I am taking back the control for women by recreating the film's narrative," says Sense. "This is very empowering for me and I hope that

women find strength and inspiration in it as well."

Sense's weavings seem to resonate with both genders, particularly women, as well as with younger fans.

"Women and men respond to it differently. Women tend to feel empowered by the images and men are attracted to the women who have control of their sexuality," Sense says of her growing collector base. "The younger crowd, as well as people who are much older, collect my work. It spans all age groups,

even kids, which I like. That tells me I'm doing something right . . . creating something that's accessible." 🖱️

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to



www.westernartcollector.com

Price Range Indicator

Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.

	Small	Medium	Large
2008	\$800	\$1,800	\$3,000