Star Body, Star Breath features new and recent work by Sarah Rowe, the Great Plains Art Museum's 2022 Elizabeth Rubendall Artist in Residence. Based in Omaha, Nebraska, Rowe is a multimedia artist of Lakota and Ponca descent whose work opens cross-cultural dialogues by utilizing methods of painting, casting, fiber arts, performance, and Native American ceremony in unconventional ways.

Her work is participatory, a call to action, and re-imagines traditional Native American symbology to fit the narrative of today's global landscape. Drawing from skewed imagery in historic texts and in conjunction with images from Lakota winter counts, Rowe projects her vision of contemporary Indigenous experience into the mix with an offbeat enchantment. Her imagined landscapes are bold and vibrant, containing a shape-shifting bestiary of tales both familiar and strange. Rowe holds a BA in Studio Art from Webster University, and has studied in St. Louis, Missouri, and Vienna, Austria.

Rowe states: “My work draws from the energy of Heyoka, the sacred clown of the Lakota. I believe humor and play help form connections across different backgrounds and perspectives, creating a more inviting world. Art creates a space of collective healing and I share that space through collaborations with arts organizations, schools, shelters, rehabilitation centers, and non-profits across the country. Storytelling and processes based on play and experimentation are key to developing engaging work and dynamic conversation.”
With the Eyes of Birds and Wolves

Elizabeth Rubendall
Artist-in-Residence Program

Since its inception in 2006, the Elizabeth Rubendall Foundation has generously funded an artist-in-residence program at the Great Plains Art Museum, giving visitors and school groups the unique opportunity to observe an artist in action. During their residency, the artist creates a new work of art that becomes part of the museum’s permanent collection.

For residency schedule updates, visit go.unl.edu/rubendall

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