

Linda Haukaas, Sicangu Lakota, (b. 1952)

Linda Haukaas is of Sicangu Lakota and Puerto Rican heritage, and an enrolled member in the Rosebud Sioux tribe. As a self-taught artist, Haukaas relies on historical Lakota aesthetics – design motifs, beading techniques, and material – in creating contemporary dolls, pictorial drawings, and painted hide bags, or parfleche. In the mid to late 19th century, as buffalo were becoming nearly extinct, Euro-American media such as ledger books (lined accounting books) and colored pencils were adopted for the creation of pictorial histories that were formerly painted onto buffalo hides. Haukaas is perhaps best known for her contemporary-style ledger drawings, which emphasize profiles of humans and animals in a two-dimensional format, without background or indication of setting, and sureness of line. Haukaas boldly pushes creativity, synthesizing the past with the present, as well as pushes cultural boundaries, as ledger art is an artform historically reserved for men.

Remarks: Thomas “Red Owl” Haukaas and Linda Haukaas are siblings.