

Name: _____

Student Note Taker

Imagining the Native American Native California Artists Judith Lowry
(image by Frank Tuttle)



Imagining the Native American Native California Artists Judith Lowry

Read the biography, underline the sentence with the vocabulary words, and circle the context clues that help you understand meaning for the word.

Biography of Judith A. Lowry

Judith A. Lowry is a Native American artist and activist whose paintings tell powerful stories from her family and culture. Born in Washington, D.C., Judith grew up traveling around the world, living in places like Germany, Australia, Japan, and different states in the U.S. This cross-cultural experience, learning about many different people and places, helps inspire her artwork today.

Judith comes from a mixed background: her mother is Euro-Australian, and her father's family includes Native American (Mountain Maidu, Pit River, Washoe) and Scots-Irish roots. She uses her paintings to share the oral traditions, stories and histories passed down by speaking, from her Native family. Her art is a modern way of storytelling that honors those traditions.

Lowry began as a photographer but later focused on painting large, colorful pictures influenced by early Italian artists. Her work often challenges common stereotypes about Native people by showing the real, rich, and complex lives of Indigenous communities. Judith also uses her art to support social activism, working to protect Native rights and culture, especially through helping the Nisenan people in California regain federal recognition and keep their traditions alive.

As a feminist, Judith respects the important role Native women play in their communities and shares this respect through her art and activism. She helps connect artists and elders in Native communities to record and share stories, encouraging cross-cultural understanding between different peoples.

Judith Lowry earned her degrees in fine art and lives in California as a proud member of the Pit River Tribe. Her paintings are in museums like the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and the Nevada Museum of Art. Through her art, activism, and dedication to tradition, Judith Lowry inspires many to see Native culture in new, respectful ways.

*Write down 5 details you learned from the biography on the notetaker (page 1).

