



Christopher Sweet

Christopher Sweet Cover Artwork: *Traditional Dancer*

A member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, Christopher Sweet's Ho-Chunk name is Huuc Co (pronounced *hoonch-cho*), meaning Blue Bear.

Sweet studied at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His artwork is influenced by his Native American background and the pride he has for his culture.

"Art was a gift given, but not pursued," he explained. "Experiencing the pain of losing two daughters put me in a bad place, but an amazing woman whom I proudly call my wife came into my life, helped heal me and reunite me with my passion for art. Now I focus all my creative energies toward unity and healing."

"When I set up at a pow-wow, I get tons of inspiration," Christopher said. "I enjoy watching the different styles of dance and seeing all of the brilliant colors in motion." He brings that experience of colors and emotions back to his studio,

where he transfers his vision onto the canvas. An acrylic painter, Christopher likes to experiment with different techniques, but is partial to abstract backgrounds with vibrant colors. He works on canvas of all sizes and also does murals.

"I don't really have an artistic philosophy. When I start a painting, I like to go into it with a thought of unity, healing and a sense of peace," he explained. "Once the vision is in my head, I can begin my journey on the canvas. Although painting images related to my Native heritage makes me feel more spiritually connected, I do enjoy trying an assortment of different subjects and styles. I create art because it is a passion of mine – it allows me to express feelings and emotions, and I want it to inspire emotions in others."

Christopher and his wife Chrissy reside in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. ♣

Christopher Sweet can be reached by email at csweetnativeart@gmail.com. To view more of his artwork go to Facebook: C Sweet Native Art.

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