

Dwayne "Chuck" Wilcox, Rapid City

20
19

A lifelong producer of art and a full-time artist since 1987, Dwayne "Chuck" Wilcox has revolutionized ledger art by using it to depict the lives and dilemmas of modern Indians. His work is informed by an understanding of cultural history as well as his personal, lived experiences, and displays an uncanny ability to convey his observations of complex human situations in a single image.



An enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe, Wilcox was born in Kadoka and attended Crazy Horse High School. Following four years in the military, he returned to South Dakota to become an artist. Active in the state's arts community, Wilcox has supported regional arts activities, serving on the Rapid City Arts Council board, the Dahl Arts Center exhibits committee and The Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School advisory committee. He has written essays, mentored young artists and emerging arts professionals, helped to organize events and participated as a core artist for The Horse Nation of the Oceti Sakowin exhibit development.

Wilcox's chosen medium is ledger paper, the first paper to make its way to the Great Plains in the nineteenth century. He uses this medium to convey, in the most contemporary way, a living culture through humor, dance or the vices of modern times. Wilcox seeks to share a continuing view of how natives see the European culture and to reverse the paradigm. He pushes his medium to its capacity and has expanded his work into three-dimensional creations that include elaborate headdresses, masks, hats and even stick horses.

In addition to numerous private and public collections in South Dakota, Wilcox's work has been widely exhibited throughout the U.S. and is included in collections at the Smithsonian, Dartmouth's Hood Museum, Harvard's Peabody Museum, The Heritage Center at Pine Ridge and the Dahl Arts Center's Permanent Collection.