

Painting Spirit: A Four Part Conversation

Saturday, October 23; 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

HSU, Native Forum (BSS 162)

Limited attendance, no charge, no tickets necessary



Julian Lang



Dorje Kirsten



Deborah Gavel



Lyn Risling

Four visual artists together in conversation about the spirit within their work and creativity.

Begin at 9 a.m. with artists presentations followed by a light lunch and a facilitated conversation between:

Deborah Gavel, known for her large, mixed medium encaustic paintings. Based in New Mexico she teaches, exhibits & artfully exposes often overlooked social issues.

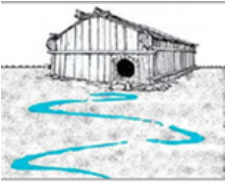
Dorje Kirsten, master of the Buddhist tradition of serpent painting, continues to sustain the life force of the sacred serpent lineage.

Julian Lang is a Karuk person, a poet, a painter, a raconteur, linguist and a multi-media kind of guy. His colorful, symbolic paintings articulate his thoughts on the world.

Lyn Risling, a renowned and respected Karuk, Yurok, Hupa painter, teacher and illustrator. Her art reflects on her world on the northwest California's Klamath, Trinity, and Salmon Rivers.

Former Native Cultures Fund program officer **Rebecca Lowry** (Lenape) will facilitate the day.

Contact the Center for Indian Community Development for more information. (707) 826 - 3711



The Center for Indian Community Development

Humboldt State University

Behavioral and Social Sciences Bldg., Room 148, 1 Harpst St., Arcata, CA, 95521

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Painting Spirit, was a very successful one day event held at Humboldt State University (HSU) in 2010.

This event brought four professional visual artists from several traditions together to discuss the spiritual influences behind their creative process. The artists, who had not met before, were invited because of their complimentary yet diverse approaches to their work and lives. During the day, each artist gave a 45 minute presentation on their art and thoughts. The event culminated in a final thoughtful final panel discussion. The day was recorded and captured as a three part DVD set, divided into chapters per artist and panel discussion.

Sets were sent to Andrew Connors, Curator of Art of the Albuquerque Museum of Art and to Pam Donegan, Librarian/Cataloger of the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe.

The artists were:

Lyn Risling, a nationally known painter and a member of the Karuk Nation in northern California.

Julian Lang, also a Karuk Tribal member, who expresses himself through painting, printmaking, animation, poetry, and music. Lyn and Julian are respected ceremonial leaders in their home communities.

Dorje Kirsten, a third generation serpent painter in the Zen Buddhist tradition. Dorje serves Buddhist Lama's worldwide as a chopen. And finally,

Deborah Gavel, a respected encaustic painter based in New Mexico whose work is in collections around the world.

The day's event was moderated by **Rebecca Lowry**, a Lenape Tribal member and former program officer for the Native Cultures Fund.

Zo Devine
Associate Director
Center for Indian Community Development

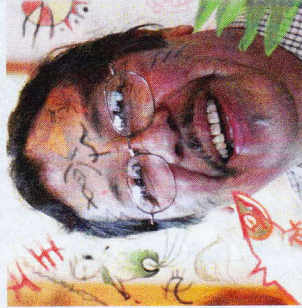
Artist Biography Information

Julian Lang was born in Eureka, California in 1951 and was raised along the local Klamath and Salmon rivers as well as around Humboldt Bay. He is a member of the Karuk Tribe and is a descendant of the Wiyot People of Humboldt Bay and the Shasta People in Siskiyou County. While developing his work as a painter and graphic artist, Lang also began serious study and practice of the local Native spiritual Fixing the World. From the mid-1980's until the present, Lang's creative vision and spiritual path have merged into a single Fast Lane that includes multi-media art forms, Native traditions, political/cultural activism and collaborations with many Native and non-Native artists, art forms and cultural entities and groups. He is the founder and director of the Institute of Native Knowledge, the President of the Ink People Center for the Arts, and a Master Speaker participating in the Karuk Tribe's Documentation Project and Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival and numerous other arts-based and cultural projects.

Painter, educator and art activist, Deborah Gavel received her BFA in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design. She has a MA and a MFA in painting from the University of New Mexico, where she was adjunct faculty from 1999-2002 and again in 2005. Currently teaching privately, she is interested in the intersection between creativity and healing; connecting the act of making with nature. Her work is in many corporate and private collections including the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital, Fidelity Investments, and Southern Ute Indian Hotel, Colorado. She is represented in Boston by Elizabeth Erdreich White Fine Art and in Santa Fe by Heart of the Lotus Gallery. As a part of Painting Spirit, she will be talking about her work and recent exhibition, Rota Fortunae.

Born in New Mexico in 1971, as a child, Dorje listened to many wonderful and enriching tales of Japan and Asia told by his grandfather, Richard Daiensai Kirsten. Dorje received his first initiation in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition at age 18. Trained extensively in the ritual arts of the Nyingma school of Tibetan Buddhism as a "chopen," (ritual shrine assistant), According to Daiensai, Dorje is the only current living "Serpent Painting master," and has urged Dorje to sustain the life force of the sacred serpent lineage. Dorje painted over a thousand serpents before offering a single serpent painting for sale, and continues painting the serpents as a regular practice. Dorje now lives with his family on the coast of Northern California, near the grace and beauty of the majestic redwoods and the Pacific Ocean, and practices meditation, astrology, and feng-shui, as well as sacred art.

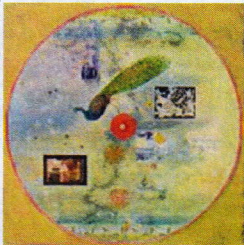
Lyn Risling's artwork reflects her connection to her cultures Karuk, Yurok, and Hupa. Her experiences within traditional Native ceremonies, culture and beliefs are inspirations for her work. Her paintings embody the spirit of these traditions and beliefs as well as the natural world. Her work also gives voice to her response to ongoing and current issues impacting her communities, the larger world and environment. "My art is often about renewal, transformation and new beginnings, but may also reveal an underlying continuum of our tribal cultures through new expressions and perspectives." Risling received a "Community Spirit Award" in 2004, from First Peoples Fund, She had her first solo show at the Carl Gorman Museum at UC Davis in 2005. Risling received a BA in Art at UC Davis. She earned teaching credentials in art, Multiple Subjects, and an MA in Social Sciences from Humboldt State University. After raising her children Risling changed her course to focus more on art and her Native cultures and to work with Native youth. She has been involved in painting and showing her work in various local galleries in Humboldt County as well as a California statewide traveling exhibition of Native artists.



Painting Spirit:

A Four Part Conversation

Featured Artists: Deborah Gavel, Dorje Kirsten, Julian Lang, Lyn Risling
Facilitated By: Rebecca Lowry



Deborah Gavel

8:30

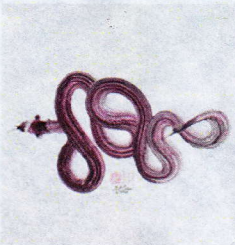
Doors Open

9:00-9:45

Welcome and Overview

Julian Lang

“Stories Without an End:
Welcome to the Earth”



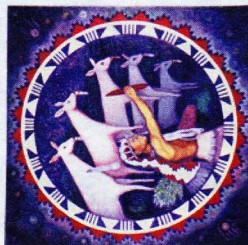
Dorje Kirsten

9:45-10:30

Deborah Gavel
“Acts of Ritual”

10:30-10:40

Break



10:40-11:25

Dorje Kirsten
“Vital Spirit of Creation”

11:25-12:10

Lyn Risling

“Transformation and Renewal”

Julian Lang



Lyn Risling

12:10-12:40

Lunch

(Provided in Native Forum Lobby)

12:45-2:00

Artists’ Panel,
Public Conversation and
Audience Questions