

Background Information

Edna Garte's graduate degrees in art and teaching are from Yale and City University of New York. Of Ashkenazi Jewish heritage, she is retired from teaching cross-cultural introductions to the arts at Oakland Community College in Auburn Hills, MI. In the 1970s and '80s, she taught art history at Central Michigan University and University of Minnesota, Duluth. While there, she researched and curated exhibitions on Anishinaabe arts. At that time, she met several of the artists who inspired this book.

Included here is work by Robert DesJarlait, Dewey Goodwin, Margaret Hill, Bob Larsen, Melvin Losh, Erik Michael Mitchell, Steve Premo, Karen Savage-Blue, Wendy Savage, Lena Strong and Gerald White. Their art in diverse media is shown in relation to Native poetry, stories, and histories.

Created mostly by senior artists in Minnesota, these are only a few examples of the wealth of Anishinaabe expressions in the Great Lakes area and elsewhere. Those expressions include creative work by numerous artists of all generations who combine individuality with community consciousness.