

EUGENE TAPAHE, ARTIST/PHOTOGRAPHER

801.367.2524 | tapahet@tapahet.com | www.tapahet.com

ARTIST STATEMENT

Bridging the complexities of two worlds, I draw inspiration from my Diné (Navajo) traditions and modern experiences. My work portrays the fragility and resilience of Native American culture in these opposing realms. I unify this dual existence in my concepts, yet the work is unbodied and weightless of our worldly fears.

My visual narrative and creative agency awakened my spirit. My use of subtle contrasts, natural colors, and contours creates a soothing balance between the past and present. My presence in today's misappropriation and disconnection from the Earth inspires my compositions while mirroring the traditional stories and philosophy of my people—to always walk in beauty.

My ideas, expressed through multiple lenses and visuals, determine the creative process, which includes photography, video, printmaking, installation, and mixed-media sculpture. My contemporary artistic continuum celebrates the identity and culture of Native Americans. The persona of my work offers unity, hope, and healing.

BIOGRAPHY

Tapahet has won several awards, including for the first time in any Native American art show, The Best of Show award for his photography at the Cherokee Indian Market (2018) and The Museum of Northern Arizona (2019). Tapahet's work has won two International Awards of Excellence from the prestigious Communication Arts magazine. Tapahet shows his art at the Santa Fe Indian Market, Heard Museum Indian Market, Cherokee Indian Market, and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Tapahet's work is featured at the Modern West Gallery in Salt Lake City, Utah; Rainmaker Gallery in Bristol, England; Four Winds Gallery in Sydney, Australia; and the Alpine Art Gallery in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Tapahet is Diné (Navajo) originally from Window Rock, Arizona. He currently resides in Provo, Utah, and is married to Sharon. They have two daughters Erin and Dion.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Art, Studio Art

Brigham Young University, Provo UT
August 2021 – Current

Bachelor of Fine Art, Graphic Design

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT
August 1985 – April 1992

JURIED EXHIBITIONS

2024-2014	Southwest Association for Indian Arts Santa Fe Indian Market, Santa Fe, NM
2025-2015	Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market, Phoenix, AZ
2025-2022	Eiteljorg Museum Indian Market & Festival, Indianapolis, IN
2025-2019	Autry Museum Indian Arts Marketplace, Los Angeles, CA
2023-2015	Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, DC
2022-2018	Cherokee Art Market, Tulsa, OK
2022	President's Art Show, Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City, UT
2019-2015	Museum of New Mexico Native Treasure Art Market, Santa Fe, NM
2019	Museum of Northern Arizona Art Market, Flagstaff, AZ

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Hózhó + Art Heals*, The BYU Weight Room Gallery, Provo, UT
- 2023 *Art Heals: The Jingle Dress Project*, Modern West Fine Art Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2022 *Art Heals: The Jingle Dress Project*, The College of Wooster Art Museum, Wooster, OH
Art Heals: The Jingle Dress Project, Millersville University, Millersville, PA
- 2021 *Art Heals: The Jingle Dress Project*, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
- 2020 *The Reveal: The Jingle Dress Project*, Alpine Art Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2018 *Unity of Light*, Alpine Art Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Light Handlers: Indigenous Photographers in the Southwest*, Arizona State Museum, Tucson, AZ
As the Lake Fades, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2023 *Native Impressions*, Modern West Fine Art Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT
The Modern West, Modern West Fine Art Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT
Expanding Methodologies, Utah State University, Gallery East, Price, UT
Screen Print Exhibition, Modern West Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT
Screen Print Exhibition, Glendale Community College, Glendale, AZ
Masters of Art: Alternative Insights, Alpine Art Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2022 *President's Art Show*, Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City, UT
Interconnected Response, The Weight Room, Provo, UT
- 2019 *Our Home: Native Minnesota*, Minnesota History Center Museum, Minneapolis, MN

AWARDS

- 2025 Ralph Lauren Commission, Vancouver, Canada Retail Locations
- 2024 Ralph Lauren Commission, Tokyo, Rome, London, New York City Retail Locations
- 2024 Museum Commission, *Art Heals: The Jingle Dress Project*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
- 2024 Museum Commission, *Land Offering #2*, Speed Museum of Art, Louisville, KY
- 2023 Museum Commission, *Art Heals: The Jingle Dress Project*, Arizona State Museum, Tucson, AZ
Best of Classification, Heard Museum Indian Fair & Art Market, Phoenix, AZ
- 2022 Museum Commission, *Art Heals: The Jingle Dress Project*, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
Museum Commission, *Art Heals: The Jingle Dress Project*, The College of Wooster Art Museum, Wooster, Ohio
- 2021 Best of Classification, Heard Museum Indian Fair & Art Market, Phoenix, AZ
- 2019 Museum Commission, *Our Home: Native Minnesota*, Minnesota History Center Museum, Minneapolis, MN
Award of Excellence in Photography, *Communications Arts Magazine*
Best News Photo, Native American Journalists Association, Phoenix, AZ
Best of Show, Best of Classification, The Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, AZ
- 2018 Best of Show and Best of Classification, Cherokee Indian Market, Tulsa, OK
- 2016 Award of Excellence in Photography, *Communications Arts Magazine*

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 Park, Karilee. "Eugene Tapahe's "Hózhó + Art Heals" Unearths and Elevates Our Connections to the Land." 15 *Bytes Utah's Art Magazine*, February 9, 2024. <https://artistsofutah.org/15Bytes/index.php/eugene-tapahes-hozho-art-heals-unearts-and-elevates-our-connections-to-the-land/>.
Bennett, Greg, Merrill, Bailee, Sundwall, Hailey. "Fab 40." *Utah Valley Magazine*, March/April 2024, Cover photo, 56-57, <https://utahvalleymag.com/fab40-2024/eugene-tapahe/>.
Caito, Nick. "Photo Gallery: The Jingle Dress Project." *Trinity College*, March 8, 2024. <https://www.trincoll.edu/>

news/photo-gallery-the-jingle-dress-project/.

Doyle, Shane. "The Healing Power of Art." *Cowboys & Indians Magazine*, April 2024, 104-109.

2023 Park, Karilee. "Eugene Tapahe Brings Healing to the Land and the People." *15 Bytes Utah's Art Magazine*, November 7, 2023. <https://artistsofutah.org/15Bytes/index.php/dine-artist-eugene-tapahe-brings-healing-to-the-land-and-the-people/>.

Kolpas, Norman. "Artist Spotlight: Eugene Tapahe." *Western Art & Architecture Magazine*, October/November 2023. <https://westernartandarchitecture.com/departments/illuminations/artist-spotlight-eugene-tapahe>.

Castillo, Adolfo. & Martin, Wendie. "Dignity and Grace, Cover Photograph." *Native American Art Magazine*, October/November 2023, Cover photo, 4.

"Art Heals: The Jingle Dress Project: Navajo Artist, Eugene Tapahe @ Modern West, Salt Lake City." *Juxtapoz Art & Culture*, October 20, 2023. <https://www.juxtapoz.com/news/photography/art-heals-the-jingle-dress-project-navajo-artist-eugene-tapahe/>.

Nelson, Kate. "The Quest for Coexistence: Mo Brings Plenty on the Cover." *Cowboys & Indians Magazine*, August/September 2023, Cover photo, 102-110.

Greig, Avery. "The Modern West Explores Identity and Landscape in Utah's Backdrop." *15 Bytes Utah's Art Magazine*, August 11, 2023. <http://artistsofutah.org/15Bytes/index.php/the-modern-west-explores-identity-and-landscape-in-utahs-backdrop/>.

Bolen, Anne. "A Journey for Hope." *Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian*, Spring 2023, Cover photo, 44.

2022 Matthews, Tammy Rae. "Capturing His Navajo Culture: Eugene Tapahe on Photography, Art and Advocacy." *Culturs The Global Multicultural Magazine*, 2022. <https://www.cultursmag.com/capturing-his-navajo-culture-eugene-tapahe-on-photography-art-and-advocacy/>.

Millersville University. "Art Heals: The Jingle Dress Project." *We The People First Night*, November 4, 2022. <https://visitlancaftercity.com/event/we-the-people-first-friday-art-heals-the-jingle-dress-project/>.

Kelly, Danelle. "Jingle Dancers Share Message of Healing, Hope." *Ketchikan Daily News*, August 6, 2022. https://www.ketchikandailynews.com/news/scene/jingle-dancers-share-message-of-healing-hope/article_da4811e2-15b7-11ed-bb28-477bf2b6a6f5.html.

Crouse, J. Tripp. "Jingle Dress Project to Bring Healing Art Form to Southeast Alaska." *Koahnic Broadcast Station*, July 29, 2022. <https://www.knba.org/news/2022-07-29/jingle-dress-project-to-bring-healing-artform-to-southeast-alaska>.

2021 Zaru, Deena. "The Jingle Dress: The Story Behind a Native American Dance and its Power of Spiritual Healing." *Good Morning America*, November 15, 2021. <https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/living/story/jingle-dress-story-native-american-dance-power-spiritual-81053045>

Allen, Krista. "'Heal the People, Protect the Sacred': Dream Leads to Creation of Jingle Dress Project." *Navajo Times*, June 30, 2021. <https://navajotimes.com/ae/culture/heal-the-people-protect-the-sacred-dream-leads-to-creation-of-jingle-dress-project/>.

Tapahe, Eugene. "Standing for Unity: The Standing Rock Movement." *Self-Publication*, August 2018.

Keating, Peter and Tapahe, Eugene. "The Biz: Fading Images." *ESPN The Magazine*, January 2000.