

G!RL BE HEARD

DECOLONIZING THANKSGIVING WITH RADICAL JOY

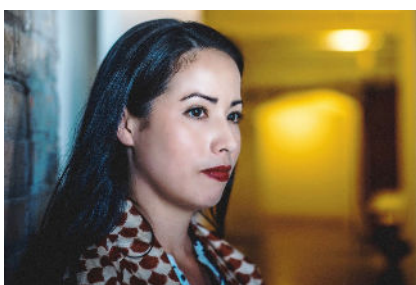
In the spirit of embracing radical joy and reclaiming the historical narrative of Thanksgiving, we invite you to rethink the meaning of Thanksgiving and honor Indigenous and Native peoples of America.



'The Last Thanks' by Wendy Red Star

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT:

Wendy Red Star



Acclaimed artist Wendy Red Star grew up on the Apsáalooke (Crow) reservation in Montana. Her work is humorous, surreal, and often abrasive, yet deeply rooted in a celebration for Crow life.

With 'The Last Thanks', Red Star proposes a different interpretation of Thanksgiving traditions. The processed foods littering the table communicate that in general, native

Her dinner companions are skeletons, gesturing toward the genocide of native people, and the pervasive myth that indigenous cultures are dead.

Red Star forces her viewer to grapple with difficult knowledge, challenging conventional stereotypes of native people that mainstream settler culture upholds and promotes.

Wendy Red Star holds a BFA from Montana State University, Bozeman, and an MFA in sculpture from University of California, Los Angeles. She lives and works in Portland, Oregon.
www.wendyredstar.com

populations do not have access to the same quality of food that mainstream groups might.

THE GBH TEAM GIVES THANKS

"I am thankful that I can be a part of a girl's life, helping her to find joy in making the world better. I am thankful whenever I see her smile, laugh and create, knowing I had a small part in making that happen." - Kim Sykes, Artistic Director

"I am grateful for the space to create new rituals and traditions of my own here in NYC and build time in to challenge the lens in which we look at Thanksgiving." - Marissa Ontiveros, Programs Manager

"I am always thankful for health and my family. This year, in particular, I'm thankful that I've accomplished a few of the goals on my vision board." - Nella Mupier, Program Director

"I can't take another moment for granted with the harrowing reminders of mortality around me. I'm thankful to God for the chance to keep making memories, mistakes and connections, and registering the beauty around me that I often don't pause long enough to fully appreciate." - Jan Phillips, Executive Assistant

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<https://www.brooklyngives.org/organizations/girl-be-heard>

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G!R!L BE HEARD

This year, we are thankful beyond words to [Brooklyn Community Foundation](#) for selecting us a SPARKS Prize finalist for #BrooklynGives 2021. As a finalist, we're in the running to be 1 out of 5 winners to receive \$100,000 "no strings attached" in January 2022.

Please help us win by donating and spreading the word. Thank you!

DONATE

8 WAYS TO DECOLONIZE THANKSGIVING

I Learn About Whose Lands You Are On

Download the Native Land app or visit www.native-land.ca to use an interactive map that will help you see what indigenous territories and languages might have and still do exist in the world, including where you live.



Read about the history of Thanksgiving as told by Native Americans. Due to the erasure of indigenous peoples from the histories, we've been left with an incomplete picture of what really happened.

2 Learn the Real History

3 Decolonize Your Dinner

Try recipes from native chefs, such as Mariah Gladstone (Blackfeet and Cherokee) and Kimberly Tilsen-Brave Heart (Oglala Lakota).



@mariahgladstone
www.indigikitchen.com



@chefbraveheart
www.chefbraveheart.com

Read the rest of our tips on decolonizing Thanksgiving on our [Instagram page!](#)

5 GIRLS ON WHY THEY'RE PROUD TO BE NATIVE AMERICAN



WATCH

RESOURCES FOR INDIGENOUS

SOLIDARITY PROJECTS

- ['Thanksgiving: A Native American View'](#) is a letter which explains in simple terms the reality of Thanksgiving's history, and calls for each person to bring about a better, more just holiday as they live their lives. This letter makes the issue personal, and is an excellent resource to understand the modern and past Native American experience.
- [On Thanksgiving, Native American Students Reflect](#)
- [Rethinking Thanksgiving Celebrations: Native Perspectives on Thanksgiving](#)
- [Indigenous Roots](#) builds, supports, and cultivates opportunities for Native, Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples through cultural arts and activism.
- [The Manna-hatta Fund](#) serves the health, social service, and cultural needs of Native Americans residing in New York City.
- [Resource Guide for Indigenous Solidarity Funding Projects: Honor Taxes & Real Rent Projects](#)
- [Sogorea Te' Land Trust](#) is an urban Indigenous women-led land trust based in the San Francisco Bay Area that facilitates the return of Indigenous land to Indigenous people.



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