Jeffrey Gibson: The Body Electric

Ingram Gallery • February 3–April 23, 2023
Organized by SITE Santa Fe and curated by Brandee Caoba
This exhibition is part of the Tennessee Triennial for Contemporary Art, a program of Tri-Star Arts.

The Frist Art Museum is honored to present this major exhibition by multidisciplinary artist Jeffrey Gibson. The Body Electric spans recent works of Gibson’s celebrated practice including paintings, sculpture, video, and installations, as well as a large site-specific mural, THE LAND IS SPEAKING ARE YOU LISTENING.

Of Cherokee and Choctaw heritage, renowned contemporary artist Jeffrey Gibson weaves together aspects of Indigenous cultures with a modernist visual vocabulary. In his explorations of color, form, material, and scale, Gibson references abstract patterns and uses materials like glass beads, fringe, and animal hide that speak to Native art-making practices. He is inspired by a multitude of sources: Queer identities, drag, rave culture, music, politics, fashion, and intertribal powwows, among many others. The resulting work is a powerful call for Indigenous empowerment and Queer visibility.
Tennessee State Educational Standards

Fine Arts Standards
By analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating artworks, students fulfill the Respond domain of Tennessee’s Fine Arts Standards. Synthesizing information and contextualizing the works applies to the Connect domain. The Create domain includes the generation, conceptualization, development, and refinement of artistic work.

Language Arts Standards
L.VAU.6 Cornerstone: Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the post-secondary and workforce level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Math Standards
Understand and describe the effects of transformations on two dimensional figures and use informal arguments to establish facts about angles.
8.G.A.1: Verify experimentally the properties of rotations, reflections, and translations.

Reading Standards
R.IKI.7 Cornerstone: Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Social Studies Standards
Social Studies Culture Overview: Students will explore how collaboration and respect for others is necessary to achieve and maintain a functioning society.
2.01: Identify various cultural groups within the U.S. and the students’ community.
2.02: Compare and contrast the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, and traditions of the various cultures represented in the U.S.
2.03: Distinguish how people from various cultures in the community and nation share principles, goals, and traditions.

SSP.05: Develop historical awareness by:
Determining relationships among people, resources, and ideas based on geographic location (local, national, global) (Grades 3–5)
Analyzing the spatial relationships between people, circumstances, and resources (Grades 3–5)
Examining how geographic regions and perceptions of the regions change over time (Grades 3–5)
Examining how geographic regions and perceptions of regions are fluid across time and space (Grades 6–12)