

K ART GALLERY
ART TORONTO
OCTOBER 27 - 30TH, 2022

METRO TORONTO CONVENTION CENTRE
255 FRONT ST W
TORONTO, ON M5V 2W6 CANADA

808 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

thek.art

716 216-2941
contact@thek.art



K Art's exhibition highlights the work of two emerging Indigenous contemporary artists, Henry Payer (Ho-Chunk) and Terran Last Gun (Piikani). The presentation highlights the artists' varying and dynamic use of ledger paper within their art and how each uses it to convey a message unique to themselves. Henry creates intricate patterns and pieces images together, often using found items. In contrast, Terran boldly uses colored pencils to create precise lines and bright shapes on the ledger paper, often exposing the ledger entries.

Ledger art is a prime example of Native resourcefulness. At one time, buffalo hide had been a primary canvas source for the Plains Indians. Settlers and the US government destroyed the buffalo herds, so the Native people turned to discarded accounting ledger books. They found a way to continue creating and communicating despite the colonized destruction of their environment.



Henry Payer
April Rain Showers & May Bring Flowers,
2022
Mixed Media and Collage on Ledger Paper
19 x 16 in
48.3 x 40.6 cm - **SOLD**

Henry Payer is a Ho-Chunk artist who works primarily with collage and mixed media. Payer's narrative compositions are bold and contemporary. His works utilize Indigenous cartographic methods with traditional aspects of spatial representation and symbolism, while appropriating European modernist models of cubism, spatial distortion, and collage.



Henry has exhibited his work at locations such as the 2022 Armory Show in New York City, Great Plains Art Museum in Lincoln, NE, All My Relations Gallery in Minneapolis, MN, Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art in Kansas City, MO, and Overture Galleries located in Madison, WI. In Venice, Italy, Payer has also exhibited at the University of Venice Ca' Voscari, Palazzo Cosulich. Payer has spent time as an instructor at the Oscar Howe Summer Art Institute located at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. He is a 2022 recipient of the Joan Mitchell Fellowship Award, and currently lives in Sioux City, IA.

Henry Payer
Appliqué Dancer, 2022
Mixed Media and Collage on
Ledger Paper
19 x 16 in
48.3 x 40.6 cm



“I place importance on the ideology and how to execute the idea in terms of medium and scale. Often it starts with a title or singular image. I then envision how to build the image or narrative developing a thoughtful plan of execution.

Some ideas are born from conversations or collaborative projects. Works move from the wall to the floor to allow certain details and actions to take precedence; whether it be to activate motion or physical interaction with the work.”

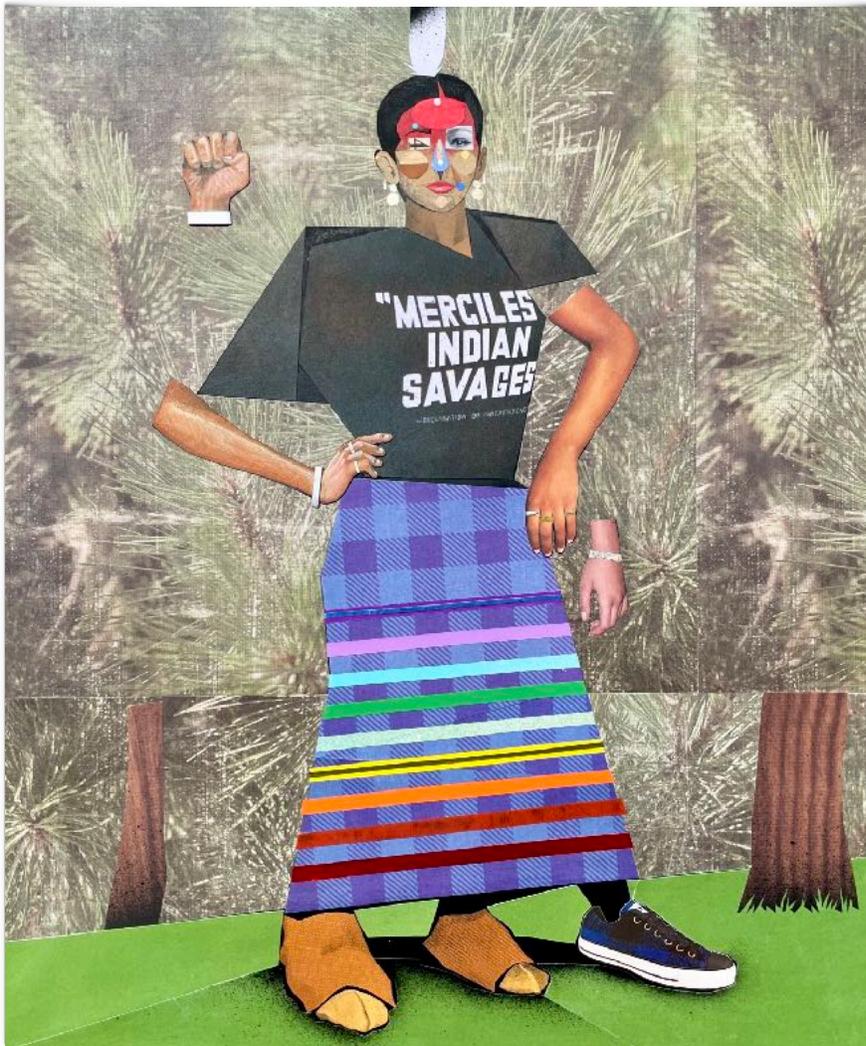
- Henry Payer



Henry Payer, *Little Drummer Bro*, 2022
Mixed Media and Collage on Ledger Paper
19 x 16 in
48.3 x 40.6 cm

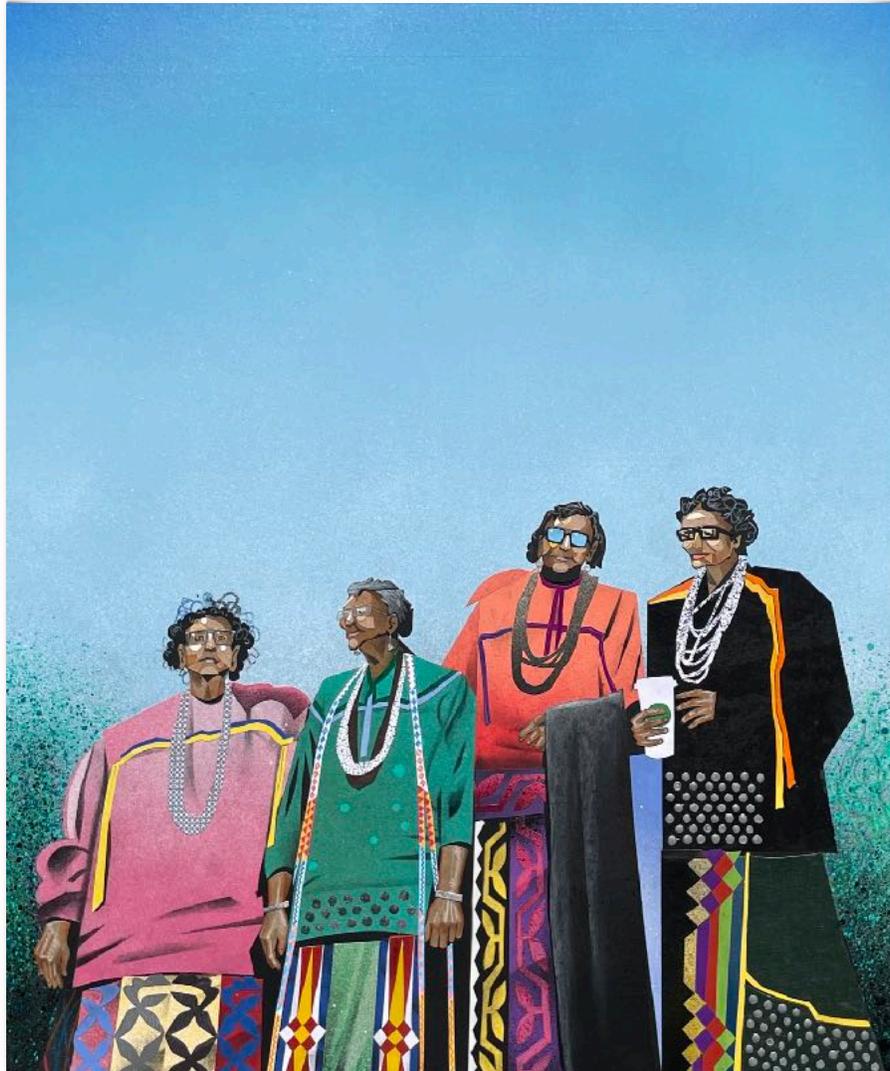


“Frontline Aunty represents our female relatives who continuously surprise us with their courage, strength, and determination as born leaders. More often than not, Indigenous cultures are often portrayed in popular culture with the masculine warrior. While this may have been true for some periods of time, today most groups and communities rally behind female leaders, especially the youth.



I wanted to create a work that portrays this idea that allows the youth to see themselves represented for their strength. Most Indigenous cultures were matriarchal but were changed after contact as Non-Natives married into tribes, and patriarchal colonization would take over. She stands fist raised in both traditional and modern clothing, red paint on her forehead, and a multicolored ribbon skirt. Her shirt reads “Merciless Indian Savages,” a direct quote from the Declaration of Independence, and a very popular T-shirt created by Kiowa-Choctaw artist Steven Paul Judd in collaboration with Native-owned street clothing company The NTVS. She wears both traditional moccasins and street shoes to literally express the act of walking in two worlds.” - Henry Payer

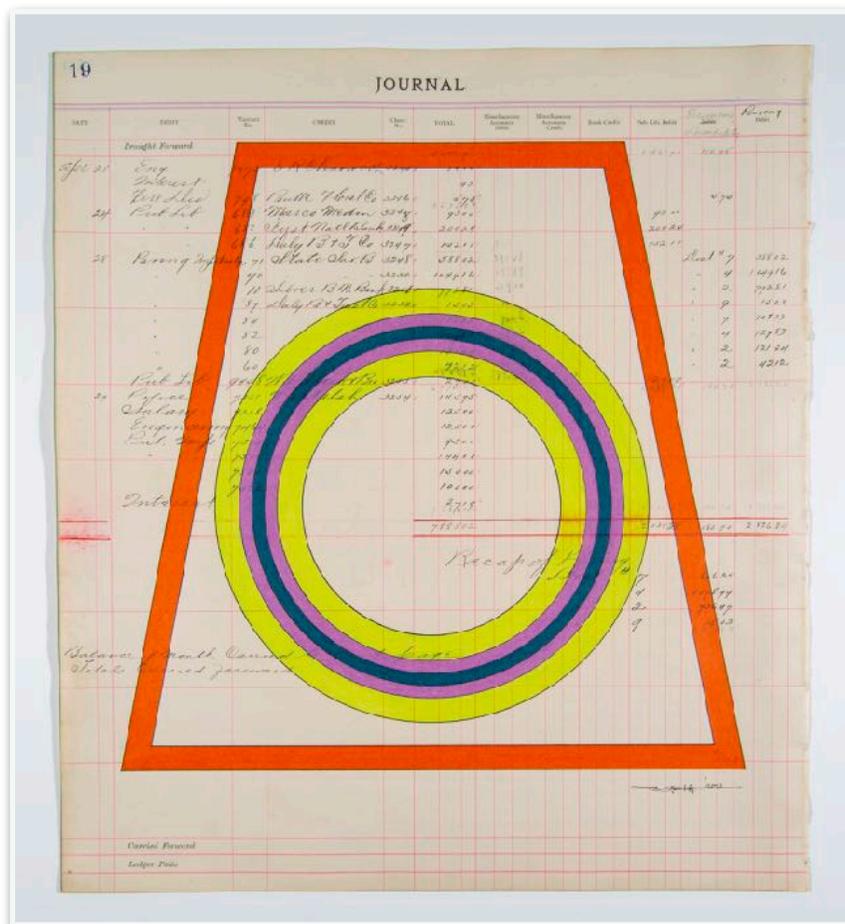
Henry Payer, *Frontline Aunty*, 2022
Mixed Media and Collage on Ledger Paper
19 x 16 in
48.3 x 40.6 cm



Henry Payer, *Matriarch (4 Sisters)*, 2022
Mixed Media and Collage on Ledger Paper
19 x 16 in
48.3 x 40.6 cm



For the 2022 edition of Art Toronto, K Art is pleased to present six unique ledger drawings by Piikani artist Terran Last Gun. Terran Last Gun / Sah'kwiinaamah'kaa is a visual artist and printmaker who grew up where the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains greet each other. Blackfoot painted lodges previously located in the Northern Great Plains (present-day Montana) inform his drawing; Blackfoot members, including Piikani natives, treasured their painted works as sacred objects rather than aesthetic creations. They were traditionally made from buffalo hide, and each detail in design and imagery symbolized landscapes, cosmological beliefs, and fauna. They were also signs of honor and notoriety, for they were reserved for prominent community leaders. As buffalo hide became scarce, many Plains Indians turned to ledger paper to document life.



Terran Last Gun, *Reestablish Harmony*, 2022

Ink and colored pencil on antique "City Treasurer, Butte, Montana Journal" ledger sheet

(c. 1900); Watermark: National Record

17.4375 x 15.5625 in

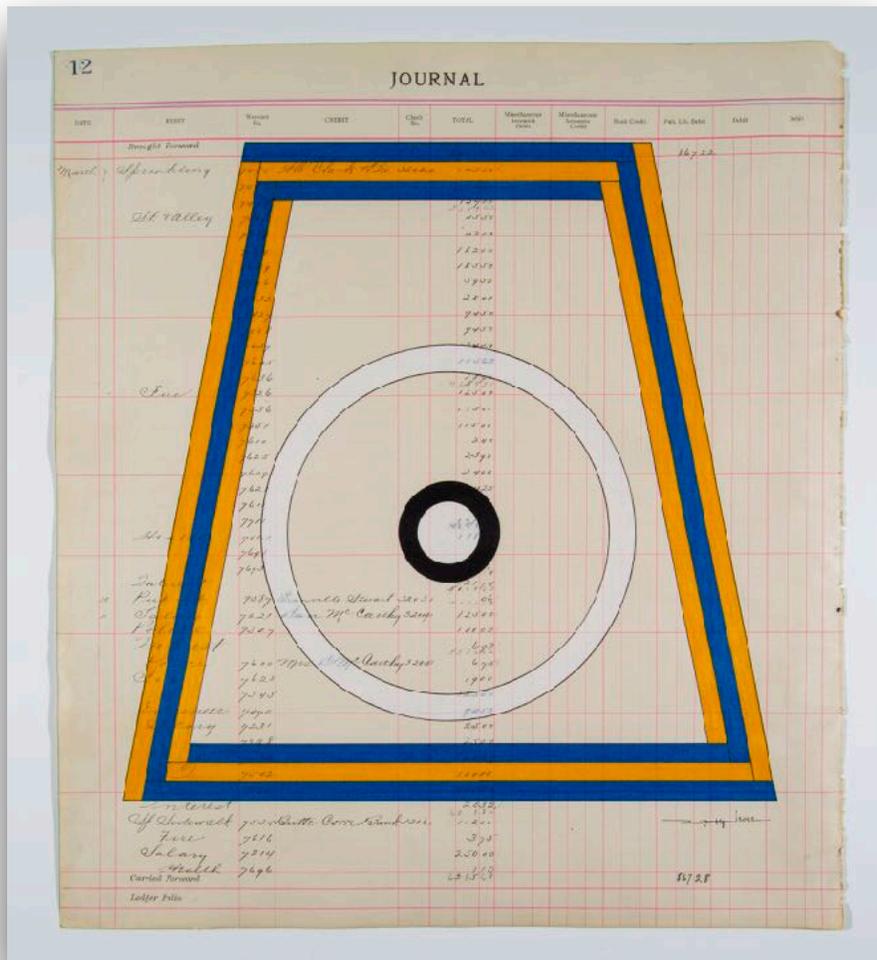
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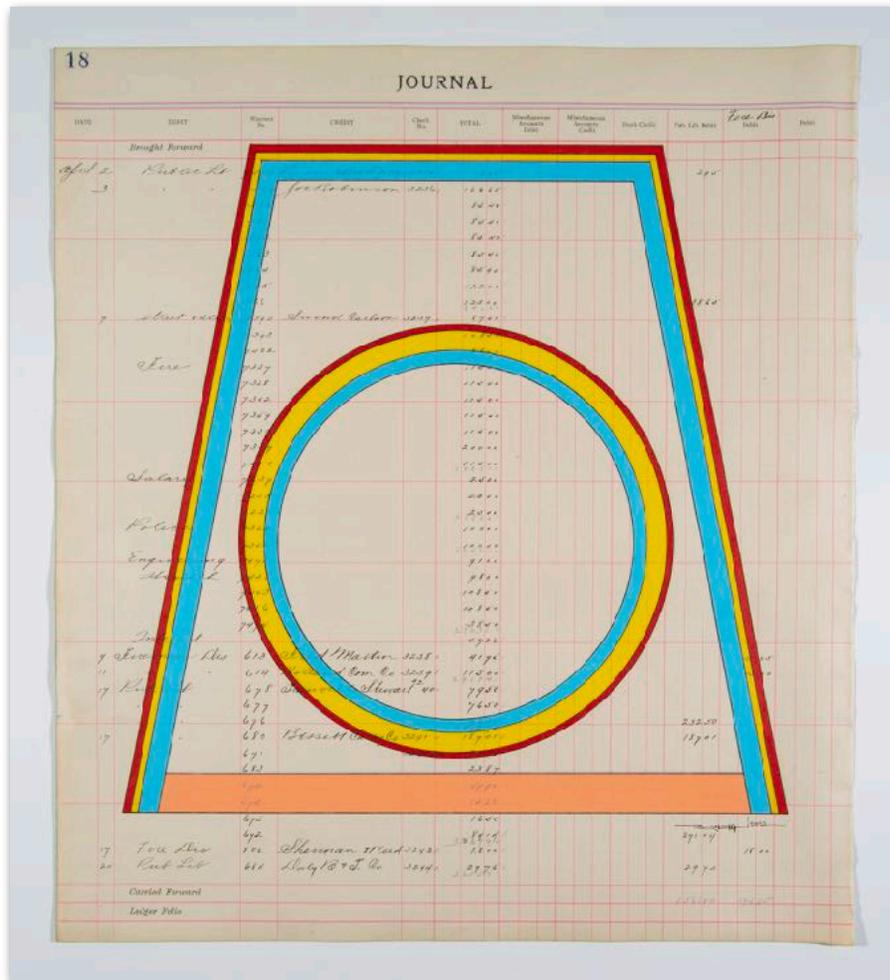
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Last Gun recognizes the extensive and symbolic history of the Blackfoot-painted lodge in his ledger drawings. He creates a contemporary geometric language abstracted from his predecessors. While his visuals comment on modern design, the process remains spiritually informed by Blackfoot cosmology and the Montana landscape.



Terran Last Gun, *Order of Color and Shape*, 2022
Ink and colored pencil on antique "City Treasurer, Butte, Montana Journal" ledger sheet
(c. 1900); Watermark: National Record
17.4375 x 15.5625 in

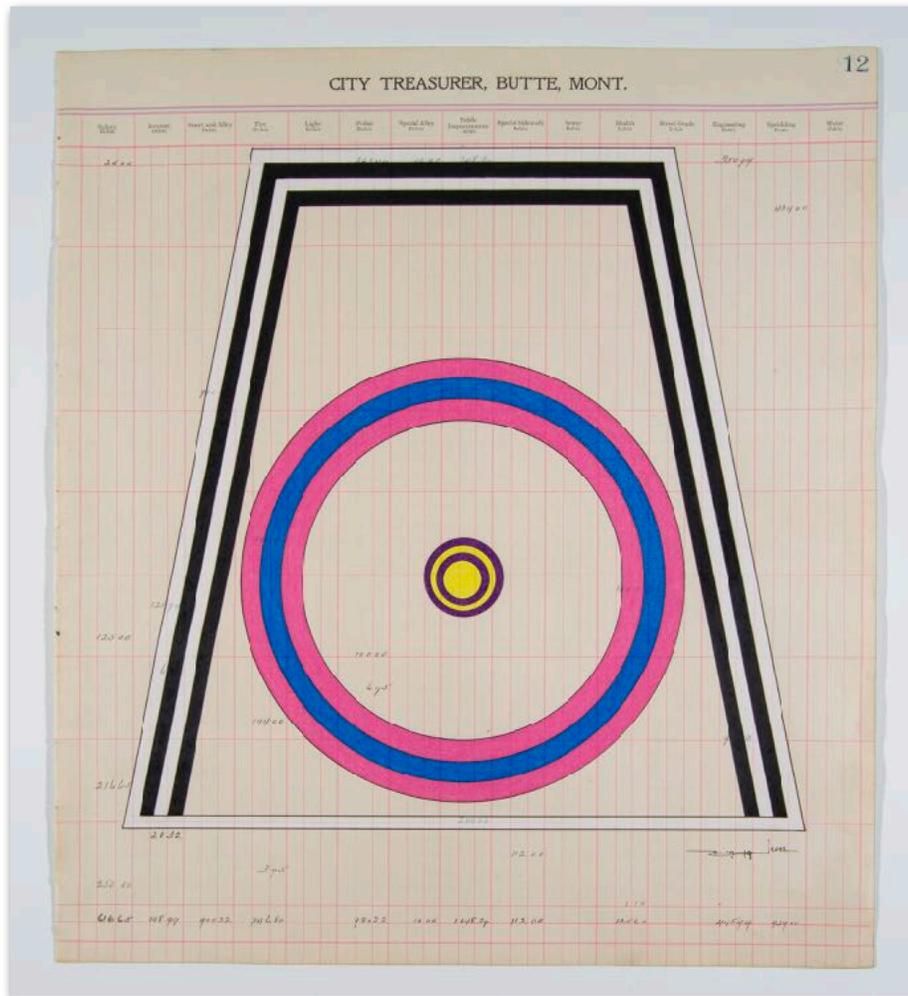


In this limited series, Last Gun experiences an artistic breakthrough and takes color harmony and vibrancy to greater heights.

His colors are bolder and braver while furthering his goal of honoring and pushing Piikani culture into the limelight. All six drawings were created exclusively for Art Toronto. This will also be Terran Last Gun's Toronto debut.

Terran Last Gun, *Renewed Space*, 2022

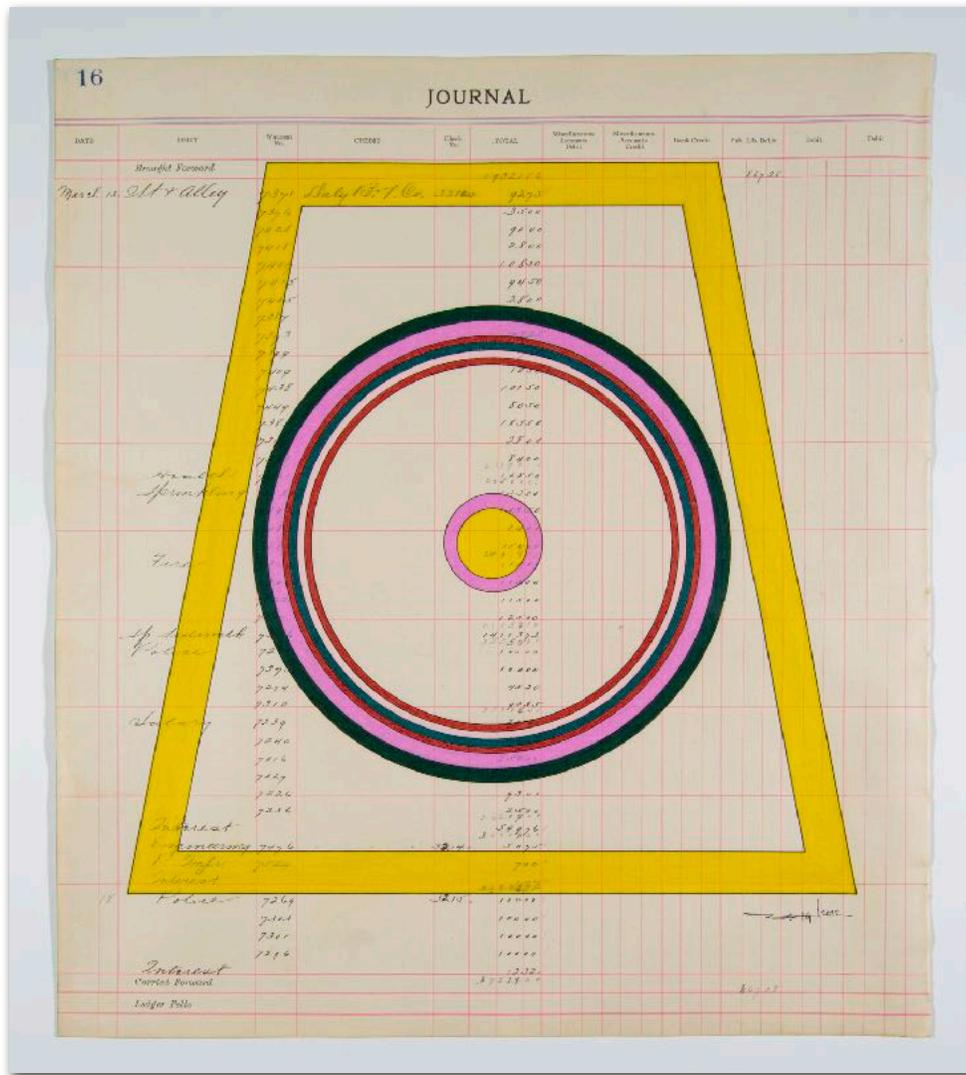
Ink and colored pencil on antique "City Treasurer, Butte, Montana Journal" ledger sheet (c. 1900); Watermark: National Record
17.4375 x 15.5625 in



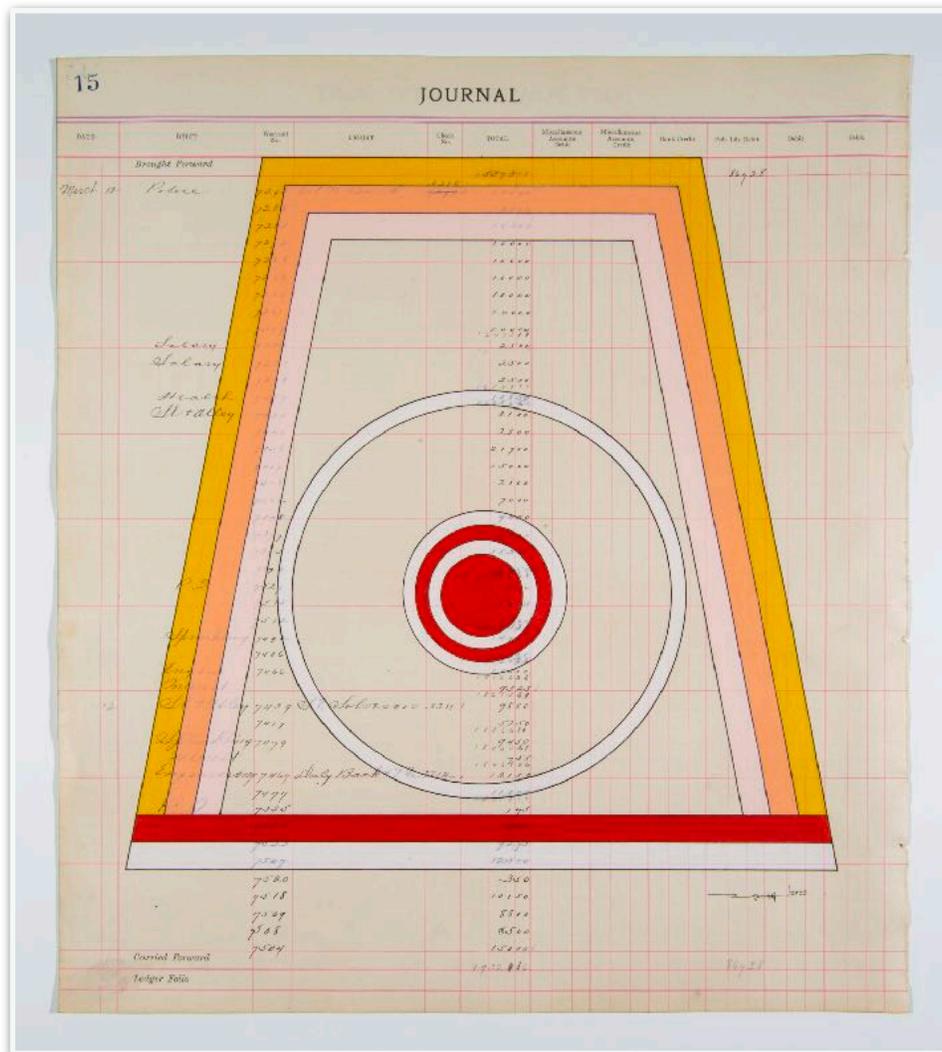
Last Gun received his A.S. degree from the Blackfeet Community College in 2011 and his BFA in Museum Studies and AFA in Studio Arts from the Institute of American Indian Arts in 2016. He is a recipient of awards from the First Peoples Fund, 2020 Artist in Business Leadership Fellowship, Santa Fe Art Institute, 2018 Story Maps Fellowship, and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, 2016 Goodman Aspiring Artist Fellowship. He currently lives and works in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Terran Last Gun, *Visual Energy Continuum*, 2022

Ink and colored pencil on antique "City Treasurer, Butte, Montana Journal" ledger sheet (c. 1900); Watermark: National Record
17.4375 x 15.5625 in



Terran Last Gun, *Medicine Source*, 2022
 Ink and colored pencil on antique “City Treasurer, Butte, Montana Journal” ledger sheet
 (c. 1900); Watermark: National Record
 17.4375 x 15.5625 in



Terran Last Gun, *It Will Begin Anew*, 2022
 Ink and colored pencil on antique "City Treasurer, Butte, Montana Journal" ledger sheet
 (c. 1900); Watermark: National Record
 17.4375 x 15.5625 in