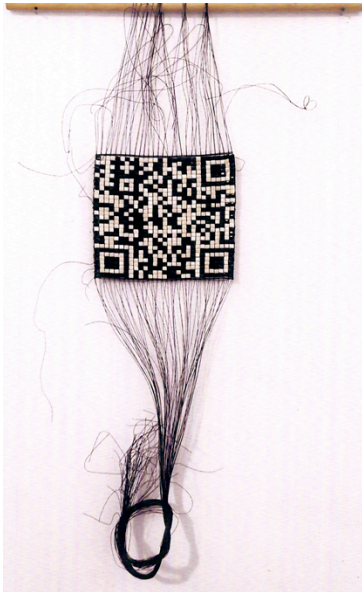


PRESS: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Eileen Braziel, 505/699.4914, braziel2@mindspring.com
New Mexico Arts & TIME Exchange Program to feature
artist Will Wilson during Art Basel/Miami Beach at Aqua Art Miami
November 30 (after ABMB Vernissage) through December 4, 2011**



In the dialog about indigeneity there persists the notion that Native people are somehow more attuned to nature than the dominant Anglo culture in the United States and Canada. Whether this is true or not—and many stereotypes have some basis in an original veracity—the narrative suggests that indigenous people lived in an Edenic paradise, blissfully unaware of such things as guns and smallpox, prior to the arrival of Europeans in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Since 2005, artist Will Wilson has been working on a series of installation artworks called *Auto-Immune Response*, or *AIR*, in which Wilson, a Navajo (Diné) native, poses as his alter-ego, the *AIR* Protagonist, a sort of post-apocalyptic Diné superhero. Mixing allusions to Mad Max and Ridley Scott's *Alien* movies with the quixotic Native relationship to an increasingly contaminated environment, Wilson's character wears a gas mask and prosthetic garb in his role as savior to a population so out of touch with its own survival skills that it has inadvertently poisoned itself. The indigenous superman re-introduces a poisoned world to its salvation through the cultivation of healthy, native plant life.

How can we sustain indigeneity, or even define it, Wilson asks, in the face of an alien-like attack of death by toxicity? To this end, Wilson plans to continue his explorations into the Australian Pine, nemesis of the Everglades, home of the Miccosukee Nation in South Florida. For Wilson, "Native Americans are a sentinel population, the canary in the coal mine, with a disproportionate percentage of Natives suffering from auto-immune diseases, including diabetes." Can invasive plants be transformed, through the trope of art, into a vision of a neo-indigenous future? New Mexico Arts' Art in Public Places program ([HYPERLINK "http://www.nmarts.org" www.nmarts.org](http://www.nmarts.org)) is sponsoring the artist in utilizing an outdoor space in courtyard of Aqua Art Miami, close by the convention center, to screen videos whose content references the four great mountains considered sacred to the Navajo Nation in the Four Corners area of America's Southwest.

The videos will be screened within a "Buckyball" (from Buckminster Fuller's dome research) structure made with segments of the invasive Australian Pine, which have been harvested in collaboration with South Florida's Urban Paradise Guild as part of a community-based organic stewardship program that UPG organized and NMA co-sponsored. Suspended inside this geodesic form is another sphere made of a semi-translucent rear-projection material. A series of short videos will be projected to create a video installation in the round. The videos were shot with a special 185-degree super-fisheye lens, conforming to the sphere on which they are shown.

Also at Aqua, Eileen Braziel Art Advisors will display Wilson's glass-bead QR (Quick-Response bar identity) code works. The QR code now scrolling on Aqua's web site ([HYPERLINK "http://www.aquaartmiami.com" aquaartmiami.com](http://www.aquaartmiami.com)), comprises an artwork about six by 12 inches in size, made of four-millimeter glass beads, which functions as a trans-customary portal to the story of *The People's Place (Mihtohseenionki)*, a Miami Indian word describing a place name. Using an iPhone application, viewers scan QR codes woven, for example, into a rug (now owned by NMA) based on Wilson's grandmother's original Eye-Dazzler design. The rug's code directs viewers to a video that features Wilson's mother and aunt discussing, in their native Diné language, how she made her original two-sided Navajo rug, now becoming a lost art. Wilson worked on this video and the QR-code rug with weavers from near the renowned Two Grey Hills trading post. The QR Eye-Dazzler rug was the impetus for Wilson's current coded artworks. Like magic wands, they redirect viewers' attention from technology to the traditional question of life: How will we protect and sustain our environments across Mother Earth?

Eileen Braziel Art Advisors is open 10 to 5 M thru F and by appointment.

Visit the gallery at

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