“When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.” - White Elk
W. Langdon Kihn
1898 - 1957

Native American portrait artist, William Langdon Kihn was an uncle to Florida Tech’s Associate Provost and Dean of University College, Dr. Cliff Bragdon. As a young child Dr. Bragdon would spend a month every summer in Connecticut with his family where he would watch “Billy” paint. Following the death of his cousin, Phyllis (Kihn’s daughter), Dr. Bragdon became executor of the estate and all of his uncle’s paintings, sketches, artifacts, and Indian jewelry, are now in his possession. A few items from that collection are in this display.

“Like George Catlin before him, W. (Wilfred) Langdon Kihn (1898-1957) was interested in studying the American Indian but not from a purely artistic point of view. He wanted to use the canvas to capture the life, customs, and experience of the American Indian. At the age of nineteen he accompanied his teacher Winold Reiss on a trip to Montana to visit the Blackfoot Indian reservation. This trip marked Kihn’s first contact with American Indians, and created within him a life-long passion for documenting their culture.

Kihn’s portraits, illustrations, and sketches use strong, graphic lines, no doubt a quotation of American Indian designs he studied. While the dress of the figure and the space around them is often abstracted, the faces of Kihn’s sitters are always expressive, perhaps showing sorrow, pride, or stoicism.”

Source: http://www.aaa.si.edu/exhibits/pastexhibits/amerind/kihn.htm

Special thanks to Dr. Cliff Bragdon for his generous loan of W. Langdon Kihn artifacts for this display.

Dresses are more than simple articles of clothing for Native women—they are aesthetic expressions of culture and identity. Embodying messages about the life of the wearer, dresses offer Native women the opportunity to blend artistic tradition and bold innovation while preparing themselves, their families, and their communities to partake in the ‘dance of life.’

“Dresses are more than simple articles of clothing for Native women—they are aesthetic expressions of culture and identity. Embodying messages about the life of the wearer, dresses offer Native women the opportunity to blend artistic tradition and bold innovation while preparing themselves, their families, and their communities to partake in the ‘dance of life.’

‘A fascinating early employee of the Smithsonian Institution was Tichkematse (Squint Eyes), a Cheyenne Indian who worked for the institution in a variety of capacities between 1879 and 1881. Raised to a life based on buffalo hunting, Tichkematse was among a group of southern Plains warriors who were held as prisoners of war by the United States government from 1875-1878. While imprisoned, he learned to speak English and to read and write. Upon release he attended school at the Hampton Institute in Virginia for about a year before coming to the Smithsonian. There he was trained in the preparation of bird and mammal specimens for study and display. He proved so able a naturalist that he was detailed to accompany a government expedition traveling the remote Florida waterways to counsel with members of the Seminole tribe. Tichkematse used this opportunity to collect bird specimens for the museum...During his time at the Smithsonian, he also produced drawings illustrating his old life on the Plains, full of buffalo hunts and battles as well as everyday camp life.” (above: ink and watercolor on paper, 1878 - 1881)

READ MORE at...
Source: http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/squint_eyes/squint_eyes.htm

This display holds only a few of the materials available in the Evans Library. To locate additional resources on Native American culture and art or other topics of interest, please visit the Library Information Network (LINK) at www.lib.fit.edu.

Go To:

Research Resources → Catalog to locate books, periodical titles, government documents, and multimedia materials in the Evans Library.

Research Resources → Sites By Discipline for more information about Internet sites pertaining to this topic.

Research Resources → Databases/Indexes and search for related topics in one of the library’s many databases.

Services → Interlibrary Loan Request, which allows campus faculty, staff, and students to complete an online ILL form to request materials that are not readily available through the Evans Library. ILL brings the world’s information resources to Florida Tech!

Research Help and Instruction → Research Guides by Subject to locate an online subject guide that identifies additional Evans Library resources and services related to this topic.

The Evans Library has professional staff and reference librarians ready to assist you with many of your information needs. Please don’t hesitate to ask for HELP!

This display is presented by the Instructional Programs team of Kathy Turner, Nancy Cook, and Joanne Savage. 3/07