

## **Mentoring Plan**

### **Senior Faculty member(s) who will serve as mentors:**

Kirsten Pai Buick, Ph.D. Professor of Art History, Department of Art  
Jennifer Denetdale, Ph.D. Professor of Native American History, American Studies

### **Research Agenda (Marcella Ernest):**

The successful completion of the first year (year one) of a postdoctoral fellowship will set a foundation for contemporary Native American Art history courses and visibility at the University of New Mexico. The fellow will interact with students and faculty in the Department of Art: Studio, History & Education, as well as Native American Studies and American Studies through in class discussions and guest lectures. The fellow will also begin mentoring students.

The first semester (Fall 2020), I will acclimate to the students and the current needs of the department to assess how I can build courses and materials for contemporary Native Art studies that will consist of readings, guest speakers, film screenings, class discussions and examinations of ongoing projects. I will work in conjunction with Lecturer Aaron Fry in Art History, Professor Jennifer Denetdale in American Studies, and with faculty in Native American Studies and Native American Student Services to best assess the needs of the campus, and by extension, the needs of the field.

One of the areas that my research will focus on is creating Contemporary Native American Art Studies courses that serve students who research art and make art within/ on / about/ tribal lands and communities. I envision a fruitful partnership with Art & Ecology as well as with the Land Arts of the American West program. A goal to do this is to expand upon my previous teaching in indigenous research methodologies with the support of UNM faculty mentors. This research will cultivate into a foundational curriculum (Spring 2021) to discuss a wide-range of perspectives and methods important for collaborating and engaging with tribal lands and communities. It is important for students to deliver and incorporate ethical practices in research and projects that is part of an active framework of listening and accountability.

### **A Mentoring Statement Outlining a Mentoring Plan (Kirsten Buick):**

The purpose of the mentoring plan is threefold: first, during the two years of the postdoctoral fellowship, we hope the candidate will transition seamlessly into a tenure track line. Second, we hope to thoroughly familiarize the candidate with our facilities and with surrounding institutions as well as our students so that they best understand how to help and mentor them. Third, we hope to bring stability to our concentration in Native American Art history and that the candidate, in conjunction with Lecturer Aaron Fry, can overhaul the area more in tune with recent developments in the study of Indigenous art and epistemologies. We understand that the study of Native American Art cannot be “business as usual”—that due to the ongoing state of

colonization, dispossession of sacred objects and land, and due to the fact that rote adherence to the tenets of traditional art history—can actually replicate and worsen the state of the field. Therefore, Marcella Ernest, as demonstrated by her supporting documents, is the perfect candidate to prioritize and privilege Indigenous perspectives and epistemologies in the study of Native American Art History as she works from within those communities. Her degree in American Studies coupled with her practice as a fine artist makes her the ideal medium to convey the urgency of the area.

As per the requirements of the Postdoc, the course load will consist of the following:

AY 1 - 0 - Fall 2020; 1 - Spring 2021

AY 2 - 1 - Fall 2021; 1 - Spring 2022

We will also provide the candidate with an office. It will familiarize them with the University and with the Department of Art, provide them a place to work, and allow students access to them.

Course Preparation and Curriculum Overhaul with Lecturer Aaron Fry

**Planned activities during the post-doc (Marcella Ernest):**

Publications of scholarly/creative products in profession (Fall 2020 - Spring 2021):

Research the possibilities of publication for my dissertation, to book.

Research the possibilities and prepare individual chapters of dissertation for essay publications.

Research and produce new (post dissertation) creative works.

Mentoring Students in the Department of Art

**Plan to help the candidate with research and publication (Kirsten Buick):**

Aiding the candidate in how to transition the dissertation into a book

Helping the candidate identify potential publishers and prepare a precis to distribute

Advising the candidate on which journals to target based on scholarly products