

## **Bob Boyer.** (1948-2004)

Metis artist, educator and curator Bob Boyer was born at St. Louis, Saskatchewan and grew up at Prince Albert. He was a descendant of the Red River Metis at Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. His great-grandfather and great-uncle fought and died at Batoche during the 1885 Resistance. His work is held in the permanent collections of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the National Gallery of Canada and the Glenbow Museum. He has played an instrumental role in the development of contemporary Native art both as an artist, curator and professor. He was a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan (B.Ed., 1971).

Boyer had an extensive exhibition history, travelling worldwide for his artistic production, most notably to the People's Republic of China in 1983. By incorporating traditional imagery on non-traditional media such as Hudson's Bay blankets, Boyer examines and critiques colonial historical events through provocative images and titles. His piece *Trains-N-Boats-N-Plains: The Nina, the Santa Maria, and a Pinto* consisting of three painted blankets, refers to Columbus' landing and five hundred years of colonization. His blanket art refers to adversities faced by Aborigines, such as colonizers distributing blankets infected with smallpox. Many of the pieces from the Boyer's 'Blanket Period' are in the permanent collections of major galleries such the National Gallery of Canada and the Norman Mackenzie Gallery. Boyer taught since 1980, he was the Head of the Indian Fine Arts Department at the Saskatchewan Federated Indian College in Regina, Saskatchewan and was an Associate Professor. He was an active curator; on projects such as *Bob Boyer's Children's Collaborative Project and Kiskayetum: Allan Sapp, a Retrospective*. He was also curator for *100 Years of Saskatchewan Indian Art (1830-1930)* in 1975 and *New Works by a New Generation*, co-curated in 1982. (Contributed by Catherine Mattes.)

### *Reference*

Barbara Pritchard, "Case Study: Bob Boyer the Artist, Métis Painting, Photography, Drawing, Printmaking." Winnipeg: M.A. Thesis, University of Manitoba, 1998.



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