



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Diné College Exhibit Shows Whitesinger, Yazzie As Multi-Talented Artists**

*Navajo-based Show Runs Through March*

**TSAILE, Ariz.** — Artists Don Whitesinger and Peterson Yazzie first started drawing as kids, illustrating people and things that spontaneously came to mind.

Both studied concepts of art at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., and went on to receive graduate degrees from the Rhode Island School of Design and the University of New Mexico.

Whitesinger teaches studio art at Diné College and Yazzie is an art instructor at Northern Pioneer College in Holbrook, Ariz. The two recently put on loan to Diné College's Ned Hatathli Museum more than 30 paintings characteristic of the Navajo experience — something each is very proud of.

The exhibit includes original sketches and runs through the month of March and includes splendid images of hogans, Navajo families and artifacts. Whitesinger and Yazzie are Navajo, and are from Spider Rock and Greasewood Springs, Ariz., respectively. Stylistically, both consider themselves abstract expressionists.

“My art epitomizes my strength, control and personality,” Whitesinger said. “I approach each project with an open mind,” Yazzie said.

Not long ago, Yazzie illustrated a children's book called, *“The Hogan that Great-grandfather Built,”* which is a series showcasing (home) life on the reservation. *Homage to Picasso* is a vividly and somewhat linear work by Whitesinger that is a tribute to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish painter, sculptor and ceramist. “It was something I just felt worthwhile to do,” Whitesinger said.

The exhibit has already left impressions on onlookers. The art show opened Feb. 7 and is titled, “Contemporary and Traditional Innovations in Rez Paint.”

“What makes the work of both of these artists notable is their dedication to Navajo culture,” Hatathli Museum Curator Nonabah said. “Their styles are creative and remarkable and people have given them a lot of positive comments.”