

# **Johnathon Thunder**

*Artist -Multi media*

*Season 11 episode 11 Segment Starts 18:51*

## **1. Learning Objectives**

### **Students learn about**

- Artists are inspired by family, life circumstances, and personal and cultural history
- Artists grow with support and the opportunity to learn new techniques
- Art as a form of self expression
- Using art to spread the cultural and traditional knowledge
- How art can intersect cultures to promote understanding across cultures

## **2. Key Concepts**

- Artist growth and influences
- Self expression through art
- Themes used in paintings
- Historical knowledge shared through art

## **3. Teachers Quick Reference**

Jonathan Thunder  
Duluth, Minnesota

Started experimenting with art through an assignment in third grade.

Later, he worked with india ink tattoo as a class assignment.

Jonathon has family history of drawing. His grandma was able to draw.

He was inspired by his grandma's drawings. This happened in the third grade.

Johnathon's paintings are personal, whimsical, political, social commentary and literal.

He considers himself an Indigenous artist.

Johnathon gathers knowledge and inspiration from family, tradition, self-transformation and personal situations.

Jonathon has the ability to implement a variety of techniques when creating and sharing a piece of art work.

Jonathan Thunder uses his painting to encourage indigenous people to take pride in their culture and strive to learn about their history and traditions as a people.

Some of Jonathan Thunder's paintings depict controversial images. All of the paintings reflect his life and experiences in some way.

Johnathon has created short stories about Ojibwe culture in the format of film.

2015 animated opening for the 2015 World Indoor Lacrosse Championship- this animation is the Onondaga Creation Story and how it leads up to the gift of Lacrosse.

He sees himself as an artist. He's always been native, and will always come from that place. All Johnathon's work is a self portrait of his life.

## 4. Content Review

- Name the art forms that Jonathan Thunder is most known for.
- What and/or who does Jonathan Thunder gather inspiration from.
- In what way does culture and tradition influence Jonathan Thunder's art?
- How does Thunder use his paintings/ animations to express his personal life transitions as well as a means of sharing historical and cultural knowledge?
- What made Thunder's work become known internationally?

## 5. Discussion Questions

- What person first inspired Thunder to continue working on his art?
- Analyze how visual art is influenced by personal, social, cultural and historical contexts.
- Explain the significance of Thunder's version of the "End of the Trail" painting and how it differs from the popular version.
- Discuss how Thunder's art might be interpreted differently between himself as the artist and others who view his art.

## 6. Resources

Onondaga Nation, Buffalo NY Iroquois  
2015 World Indoor Lacrosse Championship  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrwW5TWTJyLRa-Jgi3M9QMQ>

resume

<http://cdm262401.cdmhost.com/cdm/ref/collection/p16286coll6/id/345>