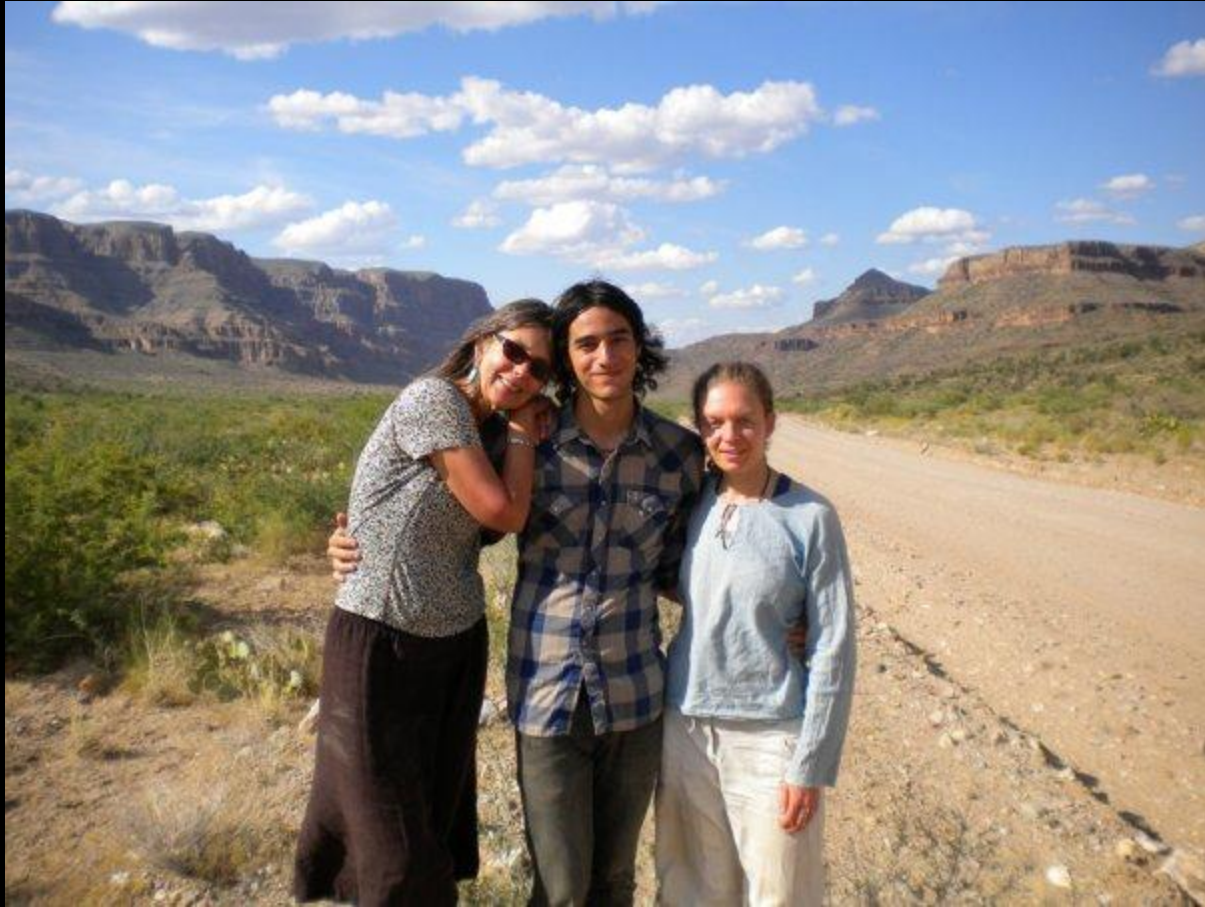


INDIGENOUS SOLIDARITY: “THE HAND THAT FACES THE SUN”



NAME: Cameron Zarrabzadeh
MAJOR: Studio Art/English Literature
Faculty Advisor: Beth Grabowski, Art

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- I wanted to find ways to interact and contribute as an artist in Native American communities not only to get closer to a native perspective on the world, but also to give my energy toward assisting natives with community art projects and ongoing struggles to resist cultural assimilation in the face of the modern globalized world.

* To investigate sustainable communal relationships in Native American communities and to grow closer to the earth as a provider of food, medicine, and shelter for all of life.

Check out this community mural I was able to partake in with others in Flagstaff, AZ:



PROJECT RESULT

- I fell into an amazing opportunity and internship with a Hopi Medicine woman named Phyllis. Phyllis founded and currently runs Arizona Ethnobotanical Research Association (AERA). Phyllis is working on a book called “The Hand that Faces the Sun” which will serve as a comprehensive catalogue of all the medicinal plants endemic to Northern Arizona that have traditionally been used by Native Americans in the region for centuries. My role was to work hard on botanical illustrations, providing technical drawings of five plants that will appear in the book to help readers visually identify the plants that are described in the book.
- I also volunteered at a local youth media center called “Out of Your Backpack Media” that was jointly run by the Navajo and Apache and geared toward Native children as a way of affirming their agency and sharing skills that would enable them to create their own media and ultimately tell their side of the story. I conducted a few skill-share nights there including workshops on screen-printing and stencil-making.
- I found that I was well received in the community and able to plug in as an artist. Having a skill to share was definitely a vital key that unlocked all the doors of discovery I came across this summer.

WYETHIA
SCABRA



GAMBLE
OAK

