

## BIOGRAPHY

“Every morning I walk to the studio before the sun comes up. Five years ago, on that walk, a meteorite streaked overhead and lit everything like day. It was a terrifying and wonderful moment. Painting is that same experience. The bits and details of that flash of brilliant clarity would pass by if not for the practice of painting. A painting is a structure for the extraordinary and informative events of nature that are otherwise invisible.”

– James Lavadour, 2013

Born in 1951, James Lavadour is one of the Northwest’s most revered living painters. Lavadour’s family are descendants of the Walla Walla tribe of the modern day Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. He has lived his life in Northeastern Oregon where he is an enrolled tribal member and has lived and worked on the reservation for the past 38 years. His sense of service and commitment to the tribal community have lead him to work for the tribal government in education, housing, alcohol and drug treatment, and natural resource management. In 1993 Lavadour and a group of supporters founded Crow’s Shadow Institute for the Arts, a not for profit print studio/arts organization that provides a creative conduit for social, economic, and educational opportunities to Native Americans through artistic development.

James Lavadour’s work was featured as one of only 102 artists selected for the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art’s seminal survey exhibition, State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now and at the 55th Venice Biennale in Personal Structures.

His works are included in the collections of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington DC; the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AK; the Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA; the Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR; the Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA; the Boise Art Museum, Boise, ID; the Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, IN; the Hallie Ford Museum, Salem, OR; the Hood Museum, Hanover, NH; Bank of America, San Francisco, CA; the Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA as well as numerous private collections.

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in conversation with  
James Lavadour

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