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Collapse/X Artifact/Whirling

Crisosto Apache

CRISOSTO APACHE, an enrolled Mescalero Apache member from New Mexico, is completing an MFA at the Institute of American Indian Arts, where he received an AFA degree in Creative Writing. He earned his BA in English Writing from the Metropolitan State University of Denver. His work is published in '90, '91 and '92 anthologies from IAIA, which he coedited; MSUD/*MetroSphere*, *Future Earth Magazine*, *Black Renaissance Noire*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Tribal College Journal*, *Denver Quarterly* (Pushcart Prize Nominee 2014), *Toe Good Poetry*, *Hawaii Review*, *Cannotation Press*, *Red Ink Magazine*, and the forthcoming issue of *Fulcrum*. Apache also appeared on MTV's ad campaign for poetry, *Free Your Mind*.

Collapse

daa

'ik

l

'idá

'ádaa

jin

di

this

was

said

a

long

time

ago



river

never

outcast

smoke

beautiful

sweat

shaking

23 year old

suicide

prime

83rd floor

waking

death

eagle tail

fir branch

columns

twin dreaming

nonsense

praying

night

binary

searching

owl
plume

traveling

silence

south

landing

double
response

dying

star

female

tera-byte

broadcast woven plate
 same Arcicbo message 1974 *ndatu* / where *bi 'tsiighaa'* white lines shifting
 language tears absent three
 yellow are
 grey conceiving male feather
 red mega-hertz gourd rattles children
 four wind fever nine nights eight days
 globular cluster limousine water pollen *hunishyé* / other names star ceremony
 vessel / *shis*
 big dipper tilts / *náhaakusi* emerging four directions winter
 observation deck bits per seconds wood together father dawn four arms crossing star vessel / *shis* ceremony
 transmission frequency *tsin nei'oli* floating, whirling rainbow *suystu* / morning star blood *ti* / frozen *ku* / flame
 center circle sunlight / *sháa* De Chelly *hiiskágu* / another
 black logs *dil* white dream
niiqusdzáni

daa 'ik l' idá 'ádaajindi / this was said a long time ago

ARTIFACT *Guustáni*

murder purge merge and maltreat *Indians*.
convex concave cauterize
coronary conviction of capable criminals

ARTIFACT *Guusts 'iidi*

authority a gaveled nail in deed

ARTIFACT *Tsqabi'*

to authorize petulant trade, governs, designate and constricts places; reservations

ARTIFACT *Ŋguust'ai'*

boundaries are excavating, boundaries are executing, boundaries are executive,
excavate binary boundaries, execute binding boundaries, executive order boundaries
boundaries are the happiness of sad *Indians*

ARTIFACT *Guneenani*

strip off *all* our relations,
liberal museum stipulations
humanely measuring & gathering
strips of *all* our relations

ARTIFACT *Ledzáada*

binds burgeon the hard surfaces of railcars, binds are tighter ropes around hands binding
adopting dot bunches blankets and smallpox
stipulations are the happiness of sad *Indians*
in ~~faith~~ in the year of ~~our~~ *their* lord 18xx *bé'kégu in'dán*

Whirling [from the center, deliver us]

<p>square round</p> <p>she stands on Qualia River facing north he stands on Qualia River facing north before cerebral extant constellate dance planetary parasol orbital particulate cellular myopathy atmospheric gas earth axis shift sheer <i>Sway Song</i></p>	<p>she stands on Asphalt River facing east he stands on Asphalt River facing east before <i>'Ashijhi dine'è éi</i> salt deposit <i>Kinyaa'áanii dine'è éi</i> pylon scaffolds gouging canyon walls edifice shore-lines star nebula collapse pulling moon embers</p>	<p>square round</p> <p>she stands on Ash River facing south he stands on Ash River facing south before <i>Kughq' bkiné</i> <i>Tidubtis' qitdaa</i> ice houses tarpaulin waters etching dust dawn quiet cerulean ash yellow eye bursts left hand pollen spray</p>
<p>she stands on Anodyne River facing west he stands on Anodyne River facing west</p>	<p>before electric cumulus red dirge clay mound ghost bloom journey twin rock standstill ocher shell arrival bone rage fissure star flame inlay dark mesa collision</p>	<p>square round</p> <p>square round</p>

square/round
square/round

they stand on Spate River facing north
they stand on Spate River facing north
wash away arm limbs,
hair wad roots
torso logs
head stumps
callous bed knots
epidural bark
leg branches
evening cricket song

they stand on Debride River facing east
they stand on Debride River facing east

square/round
square/round

wash away stale stints
chemical inebriate
accidentally incarcerate
stabbing rape cramp
waling skin stench
unseen wind cage
fading ridge stance
torrent rib snag song

vamquish shrapnel
distrat vocal shrill
dusky clevis fears
tumoil traveler
secret clever thief
burial internment
(un)found corpse
wash away victim dissect

they stand on Deterge River facing south
they stand on Deterge River facing south

square/round
square/round

night weeping song
studded back welt
red particle board
pin willow whip
extension cord
sanguine willow plaits
yucca spine braids
wash away butterfly shatter

they stand on Scour River facing west
they stand on Scour River facing west

square/round
square/round

square/round
square/round

she / he shakes fir branches northward
he / she shakes gourd rattles northward
call upon *daqk'e* frost falls

dying ovary
xa cold sojourn
popping ice
daq natal buds
bring all births
petal ripens
corolla berries

she / he shakes fir branches westward square/round
he / she shakes gourd rattles westward square/round

he / she shakes fir branches eastward square/round
she / he shakes gourd rattles eastward square/round
call upon *na'dleehi*

dilbaa
ndé'isdzan
na yénnas ganné
boté'
lhamana
wing'kté
ho'va

smoke feather songs
corn pollen
burning embers
night songs
owl feathers
eagle feathers
cedar wood
call upon clay people

she / he shakes fir branches southward square/round
he / she shakes gourd rattles southward square/round
call upon Hasitín Kláa
Lozen
Dahteste
Osh-tisch
We'Wha
Goyen
Barnard 2nd
Fred Martínez Jr

i begin extension prayer facing north round / square

i begin extension prayer facing north square / round

rivers of mislaid people

flouting children

mother arteries

father capillaries

car carcass parts

wire strung barbs

human gibbets

displaced snap songs

i begin extension prayer facing east

i begin extension prayer facing east

rivers of migrant whistles

oscillate T-cell stop

cerium lung collapse

hematoma life support

circle twirl beryllium

arterial corrosive marrow

overpass ligature songs

round / square

square / round

i begin extension prayer facing west round / square

i begin extension prayer facing west square/ round

ghost weed song

necrotic talon slit

pineal infection

decompose ditch

stout lark homicide

red skin blood

cross dress reference

rivers of casket lining

ribbed road songs

insolent stall sex

malevolent hack

dissipate tears

gravel clump clots

cheap dirt heaps

scarlet gravel pits

rivers of stick pin needle fluid

i begin extension prayer facing south round / square

square / round