ABSTRACTION FROM CULTURAL PATTERNS: Dyani White Hawk and the painting from 2011 titled Been Seeing You For Awhile Now

Playing Sioux quill and beadwork designs into the dynamic of large scale picture-making, Dyani White Hawk develops images that combine tribal cultural history from historic objects into contemporary art history. Blanket stripes and moccasin patterns blend and jump out at us from this work where parallel ridges in black and white on moccasin shapes come together in a power play of angles and overlapping shapes. The moccasin shapes even have stitched (painted) edges adding to the complexity of this formal composition.

Dyani White Hawk came to the Tweed Museum in 2012 as a co-curator of the Mni Sota exhibit subtitled Reflections of Time and Place. This was a show that looked at contemporary Native American artists who have discovered innovative ways to make their narrative stories into compelling and significant art objects.

Dyani White Hawk is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (Sicangu Lakota) and she earned her Master of Fine Arts degree in Studio Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She recently received a McKnight Visual Artist Fellowship Award.