



Top: *Cannibal Holocaust*, 2008. Mixed media on paper. 44" x 60." Collection of the artist. Photo by Rik Sferra. Bottom and front (detail): *Izhitwaawin*, 2006. Oil on paper. 22" x 30." Collection of Soo Visual Arts Center.

Andrea Carlson is on view June 13, 2009 through January 10, 2010.

George Gustav Heye Center  
One Bowling Green  
New York, NY 10004  
[www.AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://www.AmericanIndian.si.edu)

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*Cannibal Ferox*, 2008. Mixed media on paper. 44" x 60." Photo by Rik Sferra.

*The museum is a landscape in its own right, fostering and assimilating objects foreign to itself. The idea of cannibalism, or cultural cannibalism, is referenced in my work as a metaphor for the assimilation and consumption of cultural identity.*

ANDREA CARLSON, 2009

The bold compositions of Andrea Carlson (Anishinaabe/European, b.1979) graphically render and explore traditional Anishinaabe stories and comment on the relationships between the collector and the collected. With her inclusion of museum objects as icons in her landscapes and seascapes, Carlson creates a “holy” space where the collected object is revered as a symbol of cultural conquest. In her view, museums are “self-nominated stewards” of cultural collections, and as such have exclusive control of their interpretation, display, and use.

The portrayal of culture within a museum setting has a tremendous impact on visitors and the interpretation of culture. The consumption of objects by museums and collectors, and the need for more and better artifacts, creates a dynamic that breeds cultural cannibalism. In Carlson’s work, the collected object is no longer within the sphere of its creator, nor of the collector. Instead, the object enters an imaginary world that emphasizes its power, beauty, and sometimes its humor.

—JOE D. HORSE CAPTURE, NMAI GUEST CURATOR