

Corso Studio Arts & IAMInteract

Artist & creative producer: **Cristy Corso**

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www.cccorso.com (updated July 2020!)

www.facebook.com/corsoart

www.facebook.com/artcorso

Instagram: [@corsoarts](https://www.instagram.com/corsoarts)

www.facebook.com/IAMInteract

Re: Painting for sale &/or for auction as part of artist Cristy Corso's "American Athlete & Heroes" Painting Series supporting charitable causes & awareness of Traumatic Brain Injury, PTSD, mental health survivors & their family.



Painting: "Feather of Courage in Iraqi Freedom"

Artist Cristy Corso, 8' x 5' acrylic & metallic silver & gold painting unstretched canvas, June 2020. Arrangement of gallery grade stretching of canvas can be arranged by artist in any location for exhibition or purchase.

In Short:

Subject Adam Michaels suffered a TBI (traumatic brain injury) and suffers PTSD (such as the artist) as a result of a fatal car accident leaving the artist in a hospital for over two years. For Adam, this occurred when a Marine in Operation Iraqi Freedom 2007. Adam was blown up by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) when twenty years old. Adam is part Native American such as the artist. Cristy's father was also a veteran in the Navy & served during the Dominican Crisis.

Current Accolads:

Accepted into "Honoring All the Heroes! Exhibition," at Estrada Garcia Gallery, Georgetown, Texas. November, 2020 & in honor of "Veterans Day."

On-line exhibition on Artsy.net through Dec. 31st, 2020,

www.artsy.net/artwork/cristy-corso-feather-of-courage

Video process shots for Memorial Day: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmz3wgUEIHY&t=18s

Video details of painting: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykN7g7zLYk&t=28s

Link to this document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hutQT4K9WDX0IPmcFJhIZfMeuV5gYMHdKkgutof3bmY/edit>





* 8' x 5', unstretched canvas, % finished outlined described below

*Silver & gold metallic paint embellishments on uniform, ground, eagles, & states.

Suggested Collector & Commercial Worth Estimate Currently: Upon Request .

ARTWORK STATEMENT OVERVIEW:

The artist's subject Adam Michaels, a United States Marine & also part Native American with family living on a reservation, suffered a TBI - traumatic brain injury and suffers from PTSD today. This is also the same for the artist as a result of a fatal car accident over a decade ago & leaving her in a

hospital for almost two years. Adam's injury occurred during Operation Iraqi Freedom 2007 -- one of the most deadliest years of the war.

Adam was blown up by an Improvised Explosive Device, IED. He feels the feather gifted to Adam by a very influential Native American Vietnam Vet and public figure, Jim Northrup > The Way of the Warrior Trail www.youtube.com/WXKD0gzurc & who recently passed away.

Also, artist Cristy Corso's father, also veteran of the Navy, served in the Dominican Crisis, & who has passed almost twenty years ago. As a result of this subject, storytelling of Adam, this painting created during the quarantine of CoViD-19 2020, in turn, this work resonates quite personally to the artist for many reasons.

"Feather of Courage in Iraqi Freedom" is the full title & one of many paintings by artist Cristy Corso's part of her "American Athletes & Heroes" series & using the storytelling of subjects most affected by TBI & publicly -- our athletes & military.

Her mission in creating paintings is to help bring awareness to victims, their families, & all who may currently suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury - TBI, PTSD, & mental health in general in America.

ARTISTS ARTIST STATEMENT BACKSTORY:

*video & content in process interviewing Adam Michaels, painter's subject for artists IAMInteract Youtube.com channel & social media.

1st, In early 2019 I was introduced to a gentleman Kenny in critical condition due to a traumatic brain injury (TBI), falling two flights of stairs at a gala benefit, & in a hospital in Milwaukee. Me being a traumatic brain injury survivor, from a fatal car accident sixteen years prior. I would visit him often also as a TBI survivor. When I was twenty-six & was in a fatal car accident driving from Chicago to Milwaukee on the same day of Kenny's injury December 7th, also Pearl Harbor's Anniversary. I lost not only the executive functioning of my frontal lobe, that left me lost in a hospital in NYC for two years but also my fiance Daniel, age thirty-four. He died almost instantly when we were hit by a semi-truck. A year after meeting Kenny, at the beginning of the COVID-19 2020 shutdown, I was in touch with his nephew Adam Michaels, on Kenny's status, living in Milwaukee. Adam, almost thirty-four years of age like Daniel, reported Kenny was out of the hospital after 9 months, but sadly never to be the same again.



Adam Michaels happened to suffer from his own TBI injury, and PTSD as a result, as a Marine in Operation Iraqi Freedom 2007 -- one of the most deadliest years of the war. Adam was blown up by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), & on Kenny's birthday, March 22, 2007, when he was about twenty years old. Adam & I also both had another thing in common -- coming from Midwest Native American blood. Adam was from the Fond du Lac Band & of tribes in Wisconsin & Minnesota & myself Cherokee & from the

regions of Illinois.

There was a very influential Native American Vietnam Vet and public figure, **Jim Northrup** *The Way of the Warrior Trail* www.youtube.com/WXKD0gzuRc) & who recently passed away. Jim wrote many books about reservation life to war. He was very fond of Adam & familiar with his Native-American family & grandmother still on a Minnisoda reservation today. Jim met with Adam before deployed & he gifted him with an Eagle feather boxed. He would carry it with him in his day pack on patrols.

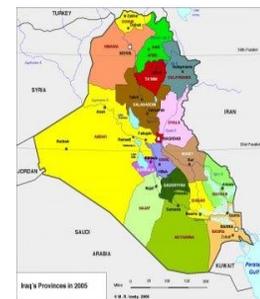


For Adam, the gifted feather & the symbol of the eagle, also the highest-flying bird, became its spirit totem of courage, wisdom, and instinctual strength needed to survive help save many of his fellow-men on lookout high on tanks. He was confident the feather created a



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“protective aura” around his team during many critical combat situations & deadly bombs. The most impactful to his injuries but also most miraculous was the explosion was when an IED hit their tank. All miraculously survived, & in detail, due to the eagle feather. This did however cause massive difficulty hearing today. My thoughts as an artist, who is also trained to think (& create) with their head, hands, and heart, is that Adam did the same at this particular moment, with supernatural help, service, & his aggressively keen skills as a Marine of our US military.



DETAILS ON PAINTING RELATED:

In my painting, I depicted the feather image as a totem pole-like structure standing taller than him even - sawn as a Creator power to Adam. The totem pole is traditionally used to convey a family or tribe's history. In respect, I wanted his traditional Marine “Dress

Blues” (I used metallic paint for embellishments for) & his “attention” stance to represent some of the same structure to vibrant colors of a

totem. I saw Adam building his own totem & legacy, also a single father raising two children, Haleigh ten and Mason nine, never knowing his real father, & alongside his brotherhood of Marines. The totem-like figure, feather, & subjects I worked to make as vibrantly colored as many feather headdresses, body paint, garments, & art of our indigenous Native culture & ceremonies. My abstract version of his “ribbons” or





medals over his heart, points to the feather -- & respecting his Native heritage. The map behind is the provinces of Iraq. I composed to have his wounded head also over the battle location, Al Anbar Province.

Today, he works as a Millwright for a company that produces malt for the beer brewing business in Local Brewery Union 9 with Miller Coors company. He lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and where his grandmother lives on a reservation in Northern Minnesota. He spends most of his time helping his family and veterans.

ABOUT THE ARTIST of “American Athlete & Heroes” series and efforts:

Artist Cristy Corso has also been successfully using other subjects in her painting from those most injured from TBI like herself -- our military but also many influential athletes. This includes boxers like Mike Tyson & David Rodriguez (where work resides at the Rio Casino Resort in Las Vegas), NHL, NBA, NFL champions as well as extreme sports legends such as skateboarders to BMX athletes to better help bring awareness to all mental health & especially teens.

General Artist Bio: Cristy’s often large-scale vibrant realism paintings, digital art & photography, to murals can often incorporate her own heritage, being Venician Italian to her Native American background being of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee tribe. More details on artist bio: www.cccorso.com

Artist Cristy Corso’s Involvement related to the work has included:

Cristy Corso is on the board as chairman of TBI of Illinois and a benefits event organizer.

A spokesperson for Traumatic Brain Injury & PTSD through her art featured:

Moderator & artist talk at Veterans Art Museum of Chicago

Involvement with Wounded Warrior event efforts in Chicago, Scottsdale, Los Angeles, and NYC as part of the Founders group foundation out of NYC honoring many iconic leaders heroes in the military, the Hollywood film industry, to athletes who also collect or have been subjects of past work.

