

# Dawn Dark Mountain: Monona, Wisconsin

## Oneida

*Watercolors and woodcuts*



Dawn Dark Mountain is an Oneida Indian artist from Wisconsin specializing in Native American watercolors and woodcuts. Dawn's heritage is an integral part of her work. She is a member of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, one of the Six Nations of the Iroquois, and belongs to the Turtle Clan of that tribe. The turtle, therefore, figures in all of her paintings. Its symbol, signifying long life and creation, has become her trademark.

Dawn works with woodland American Indian subject matter and ideas. The subject matter combined with a very controlled watercolor style (often mistaken for airbrush) results in a peculiar mystical quality sometimes referred to as "magic realism." In addition to her paintings, Dawn has a series of linoleum and wood block prints that are then completed with watercolor. Each of these blocks is carved and printed by hand, making each print unique.

Dawn has been the recipient for numerous awards and honors including a fellowship and awards from the Santa Fe Indian Market, awards at the Eiteljorg Museum Indian Market, Indianapolis, and the Tesoro Cultural Center Indian Market among others. Dawn has been active as a professional artist since 1989 and travels extensively to market and promote her work.

