

Kent Monkman – Clip 9

## I placed my altar-ego in the painting

I placed myself in the work *Portrait of the artist as hunter*, as my drag persona, *Share Eagle Testickle* (S.E.T.) and I created that drag persona because I wanted to have a character, a representation of two-spirited sexuality. I felt that really the strongest way of doing that was to paint myself in drag in the painting. At first glance because I've modeled my persona on Cher's half-breed persona, from a distance it looks just like a generic sort of Indian warrior on horseback, inside the landscape, but you have to really approach the painting quite closely to see that there's a twist on that sort of Indian regalia and you know, I'll paint myself with, you know, high heeled platform shoes or there will be that sort of twist on the Indian's costume. This was inspired by Cher because of her half-breed, I guess send up of, you know, those Hollywood stereotypes. So there's a way of sort of reclaiming that Hollywood stereotype and disempowering it in the same way that homosexuals have reclaimed the word fag. It's a very similar sort of reclaiming of stereotypes that have been harmful, you sort of take them back, you own them, you reclaim them and then you present them from a position of power and that's really what I wanted to do. This whole *Share Eagle Testickle* (S.E.T.) persona is to take that Hollywood Indian stereotype and present it as a really empowered persona who has in my paintings a lot of sexual power.

