



NMSU Library News Release

Date: April 6, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jeanette Smith, NMSU Library, (505) 646-7492, jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu

Navajo Poet Bitsui to Speak at NMSU Library program

Award-winning Navajo poet Sherwin Bitsui will be the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the NMSU Library's Rio Grande Historical Collections Society. The presentation is open to the public.

The keynote address, entitled "Art and the Preservation of History in the Navajo and Bitter Water Communities," will take place on Monday, April 18, 2005, at 1:15 p.m. at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum auditorium. Museum admission is \$3 at the door.



Sherwin Bitsui. Photo, Sherwin Bitsui.

Bitsui, who lives in Tucson, is originally from White Cone, Arizona. He is Diné of the Bitter Water People, born for the Manygoats People. His poems, drawn from urban and Navajo perspectives, have been published in *American Poet*, *The Iowa Review*, *Frank*, *Red Ink* and elsewhere. His book *Shapeshift*, published by the University of Arizona Press in 2003, explores the tensions between the worlds of nature and man.

Bitsui has received the University of Arizona's Academy of American Poets Student Poetry Award, the Truman Capote Creative Writing Fellowship and an Individual Poet grant from the Witter Bynner Foundation.

The keynote address is the culmination of a full day of presentations to the Rio Grande Historical Collections Society by NMSU Library staff and community members, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

For more information on the Bitsui presentation or the Rio Grande Historical Collections Society meeting and luncheon, please contact Lesley Heiser at (505) 646-3642 or lheiser@lib.nmsu.edu.