

# 'Napi, the Old Man' through the artist's eyes

## Lodgepole Gallery celebrates women, art

**B**ROWNING — Earlier this month, MSNBC's "Today Show" featured the Lodgepole Gallery as one of the nation's must-see tourism attractions.

"They told everyone to come to Browning, Montana," crowed Darrell Norman, the gallery's owner.

And the "Today Show" aired pictures, taken by his wife Angelika, that showed the tepees tourists can rent during their stay. Cultural lectures, historical tours, meals and showers also are available through the gallery.

On display there this summer is

celebrate their role in our art," he said.

Many of the dozen artists are women, including Mari King of East Glacier, who will be contributing several nude paintings of Native American women.

There will be some male artists, such as the late King Kuka whose painting, "Honoring the Medicine Horse," features a woman warrior brandishing a spear.

"Women were also protectors of the culture," Norman observed.

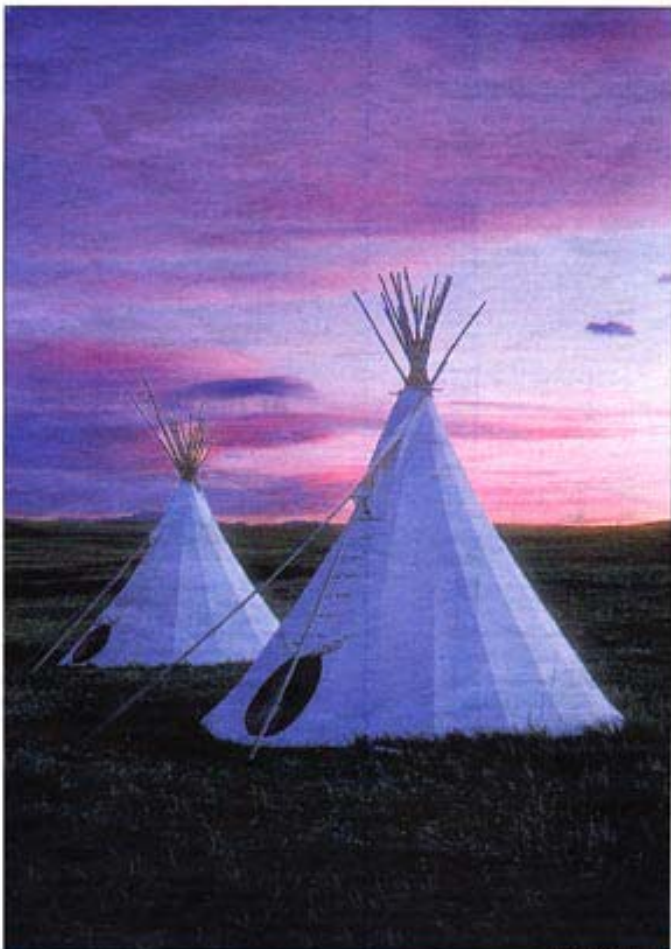
On one wall are three paintings of Native American women by Robert Orduo, the former Great Falls artist whose 10-foot-by-35-foot mural graces the Great Falls airport

Prices are modest, compared to the booming art markets in the Northeast and the Southwest, Norman noted.

"The prices for Indian antiquities has become tremendous," he said. "But many of us are doing the same things in the same ways today, and we can't command those prices."

Still, Browning is developing its own cadre of active artisans, he said.

"When I first came back here, there really wasn't an art scene," Norman said. "But now there's a lot happening, and as the founder of the first independent art gallery, I feel partly responsible."



ANGELIKA NORMAN PHOTO

Beautiful tepees are available for visitors to Browning to rent. Photos of the tepees were shown on the "Today Show."

"Blackfeet Women and Art" will be featured at the Lodgepole Gallery just north of Browning on Highway 89. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. There's no admission charge. It's an opportunity to meet Blackfeet artists and see their work.

an exhibition called "Blackfeet Women and Art," inspired by Angelika Harden-Norman.

"The idea is to show the influence of women in the Blackfeet arts," Norman said. "Today, men bead and parfleche, but that's traditionally women's work so we decided to cel-