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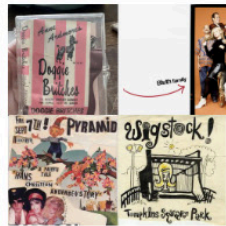
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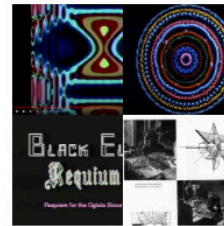
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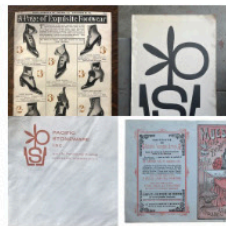
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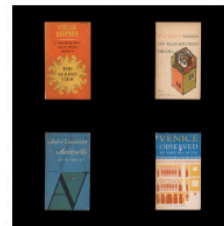
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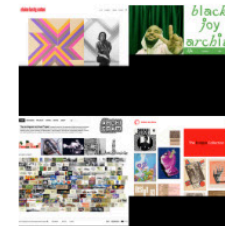
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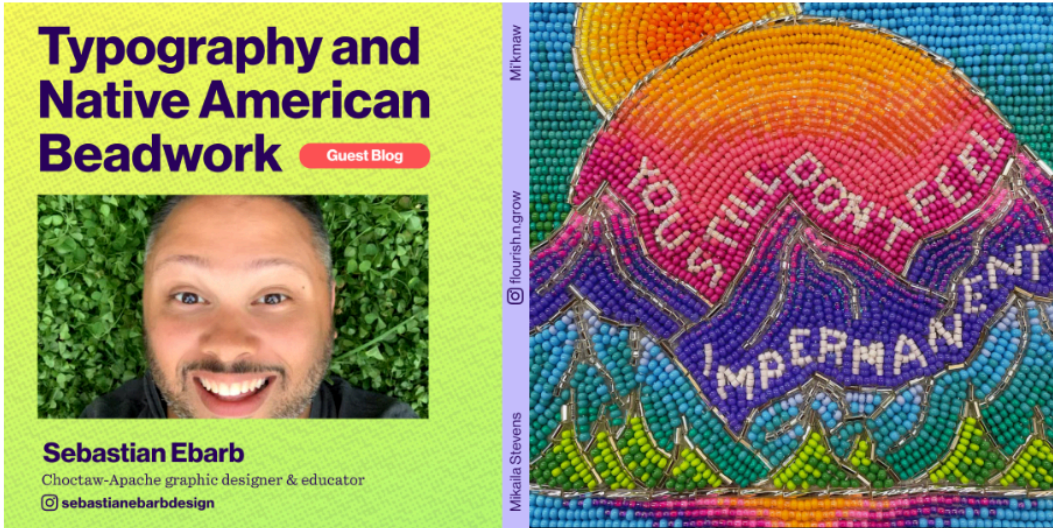


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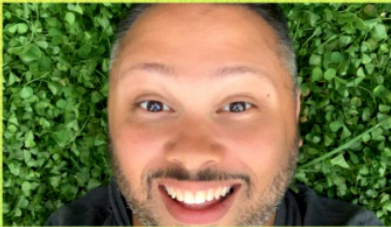
## Typography and Native American Beadwork

SEBASTIAN EBARB, NOV 22ND, 2024 (3 MIN READ)



### Typography and Native American Beadwork

Guest Blog



**Sebastian Ebarb**  
Choctaw-Apache graphic designer & educator  
@sebastianebarbdesign

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I would like to kick off Native American History (Futures) Month by featuring contemporary type and beading designers in the People's Design Archive. Beading holds a unique place in Native histories, as it bridges the gap between cultures, writing systems, and communication. It exists at the intersection of both art and design. Before European contact, the hundreds of Native tribes had their own distinct styles of beadwork. Beads were made from materials such as clay, shells, and metal. The symbols and pictograms in traditional beadwork contain treaties, stories, and histories that have stood the test of time.

With European contact came glass beads and Western writing systems. As white settlers colonized the Americas, their writing systems became dominant as did imported glass beads. In present-day, white-led mainstream design culture where computers dominate, beading has often been overlooked as a form of communication and design. Yet, beading continues to play an important role in communication and the preservation of history, carrying forward a legacy of connection and expression.

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### Resources

#### Tutorials

- [Adding to the Archive](#)
- [Creating a Collection](#)
- [Documenting work fast & easy](#)
- [Conducting an interview fast & easy](#)
- [Archiving fast & easy](#)

#### Event Resources

- [Add-a-Thon Planning Kit](#)

#### Teaching with the Archive

- [AIGA Design Teaching Resource](#) is a valuable resource for sharing assignments that utilize The PGDA. This peer-populated platform makes it easy to share projects, teaching materials, outcomes, and project reflections. We encourage you to use this Resource and add your own assignments!  
Here are two briefs in the AIGA Teaching Resource utilizing The PGDA to get you started!: [People's Graphic Design Archive x Instagram Histories](#); [Building a History of Motion Design](#)
- [Assignments & Prompts](#) is a brainstorm of ideas for projects using The People's Graphic Design Archive that has been compiled by educators.
- [Teach Archives](#) is a website with articles and exercises for teaching effectively with primary sources. It was initiated by Brooklyn Historical Society and is not discipline-specific.
- [Tagging the People's Graphic Design Archive](#) A valuable guide by Johanna Drucker on considering tags.

#### Research Resources

- [Finding Graphic Design in Your Community](#)
- [Using Auctions for Research and Collecting](#)
- Release Form (for Interviews) [PDF here](#)

#### Coming Soon

- Graphic Design Roadshow Planning Kit

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#### Archive Collections

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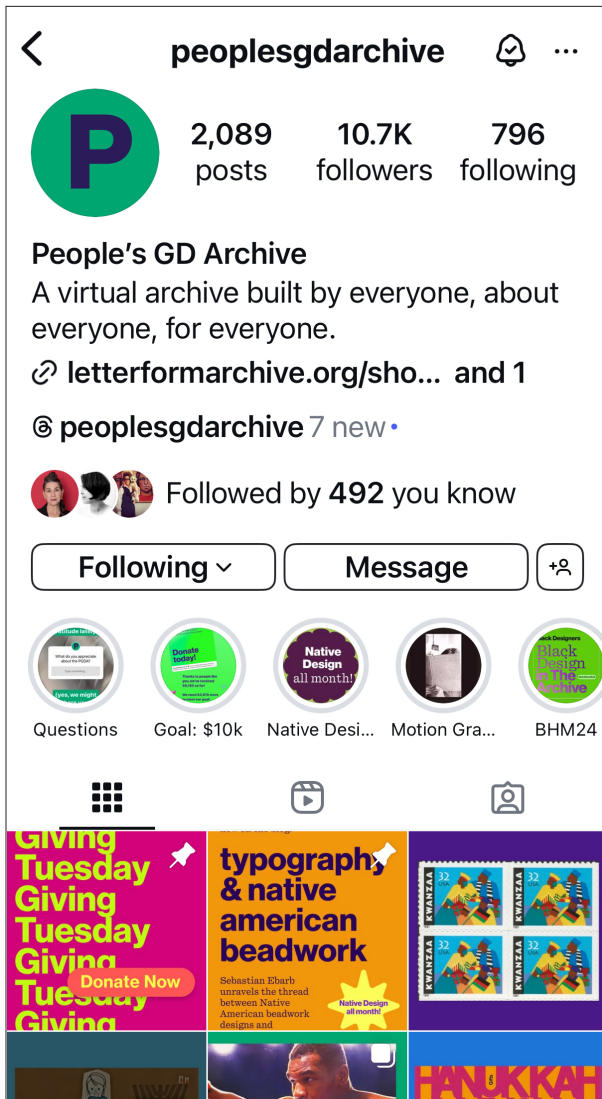
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