Gwen Nell Westerman

A poet and fiber artist, Gwen Nell Westerman lives in southern Minnesota, as did her Dakota ancestors. Her roots are deep in the landscape of the tall grass prairie, and reveal themselves in her art and writing through the languages and traditions of her family. She is an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and currently Professor in English and Director of Humanities at Minnesota State Mankato. Her award-winning quilts have been displayed in exhibits in Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Peter, Sioux Falls, Anchorage, Houston, and Tulsa, and are in the permanent collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and the Red Cloud Heritage Center in Pine Ridge. She is the author *Follow the Blackbirds*, a poetry collection in Dakota and English, and co-author of *Mni Sota Makoce: Land of the Dakota*, a history of Dakota land tenure in Minnesota.