

# Spirit Dolls: An Exhibition

*'They Tried To Bury Us. They Did  
Not Know We Were Seeds.'*

**March 17–27, 2025**

Library, Coeur de Catherine  
St. Catherine University



**Reception and  
Conversation**  
*with dollmaker  
Maria Morin McCoy*

**Thursday, March 20, 5–7 p.m.**

Inez Room, Library 123

Light refreshments served

**Maria Morin McCoy**, one of the Spirit Doll makers, is a mother of four and grandmother of eight. She comes from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota and is from the Bear Clan. Maria lives in St. Paul, Minnesota and has worked at the American Indian Family Center since 2006.

**The Spirit Doll Exhibit** is a memorial honoring the Native American children who were forcibly removed from their families and community, put in residential boarding schools in the United States and Canada. The Spirit Dolls represent the children who died in the boarding schools never to return home — many buried in unmarked graves without their families being notified. This exhibit was a collective endeavor in which Native American communities and Indigenous Roots communities came together to make the Spirit Dolls that opened ways to release grief and pathways for healing. Some dolls represent members of the makers' own families.

**For more information, contact:**

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