The Kiowa, who originated in the Bitterroot Mountains of present-day Montana and migrated to the Black Hills by 1775 before settling in the southwestern Plains in the seventeenth century, decorated their blankets with boxes, rows, shells, and parfleche to add beauty to their homes and clothing. The Kiowa women wove their blankets using woolen yarn and cotton yarn purchased at local trading posts, and decorated them with designs sewn with beadwork, quills, and embroidery. Beadwork was a significant form of self-expression, used to adorn clothing and blankets, and to create pieces like moccasins, purses, and bags. The Kiowa women's beadwork was known for its intricate designs, including diamond-shaped patterns, box and triangular shapes, feathered circles, and geometric designs. Beads were strung together on a string and then sewn onto the fabric.

By the 1830s, European traders had brought smaller glass beads and "moons" to the Plains. These new beads were smaller and more numerous than the larger, heavier porcupine quills and glass beads that Kiowa women had previously used. This change in bead size made it possible to create more intricate designs and increased the speed of beadwork. Kiowa women began to incorporate these new beads into their beadwork, using them to create more detailed and complex patterns.

In 1970, Teri Greeves was born in Lander, Wyoming, and grew up in the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming with her grandmother, a renowned beadworker and friend of the historic Chipeta Family Foundation. At 19, Greeves was invited to exhibit her beadwork in the Chipeta Family Foundation's "Young Native American Indian Art" show. She was known for her beadwork, which was influenced by traditional techniques and materials.

Greeves' works (2011 and 2012) address the experiences of being a Native American Indian artist and female. In the former, she depicts a Cheyenne woman with traditional dress and hairstyle who wears a modern looking dress and hairstyle. In the latter, she depicts a Crow woman with traditional dress and hairstyle who wears a modern looking dress and hairstyle.

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TERI GREEVES
Kiowa, born 1970

HIGH-TOP TENNIS SHOES
1995, beaded commercial canvas shoes, 6 1/2 x 4 x 12 3/8 in.

JOSLYN ART MUSEUM
OMAHA, NEBRASKA