



Contemporary artwork by Chickasaw artists on display throughout Oklahoma

Unique art will be on display at the Visitor Center in Sulphur, Welcome Center in Davis and Exhibit C in Oklahoma City from July through October

OKLAHOMA CITY – (May 1, 2015) Three well-known Native American artists, Jeannie Barbour, Mary Ruth Barnes and Cale Chadwick, will have their contemporary art pieces, including, photography, drawings and paintings on exhibit at separate locations in south-central Oklahoma. From July 1 through October 31, Jeannie Barbour's drawings and paintings will be featured at the Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma; Mary Ruth Barnes' photograph and drawings will be on display at the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis, Oklahoma; and Cale Chadwick's drawings, paintings and photographs will be on display at Exhibit C in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Barbour, Barnes and Chadwick create unique pieces of art by diverse resources of photography, painting and drawing.

Jeannie Barbour, Chickasaw Visitor Center, Sulphur, Oklahoma

At the age of four, Jeannie Barbour started drawing and painting, which has helped her build a firm foundation for her career, and a life-long passion for creating art. Barbour expresses her Chickasaw heritage in her works by means of colored pencil, oil painting and watercolor; and she finds southeastern and tribal history and culture to be her inspiration.

"As a Chickasaw, themes regarding verbalized tradition have been of special interest to me, and I try to convey that in my art with each piece I create," said Barbour. "I prefer to illustrate subject matter based on positive experiences and relationships that reflect Chickasaw traditions."

Most recently, Barbour has won an Oklahoma Book Award for Best Illustrations in 2014, along with a Moonbeam Children's Book Bronze Award in 2013 and was also awarded the Best Illustrator in 2013 by the Delta Kappa Gamma International Association of Teachers. Additionally, Barbour's illustrations are published in a variety of books associated with the Chickasaw Press. Earning a degree from Oklahoma State University and a book publishing certification from the University of Denver, Barbour now serves the Chickasaw Nation Department of Communications as the creative director.

Mary Ruth Barnes, Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center, Davis, Oklahoma

Art has been prominent for Mary Ruth Barnes as she grew up around her grandfather, Harry McSwain, an original Chickasaw enrollee, who inspired Barnes to become an artist. Barnes specializes in paintings and photography; and Barnes' concentrations in painting mediums include watercolor, pencil and ink sketching and acrylic. Barnes enjoys being an artist as it enables her to share the world as she sees it.

"While growing up in Tishomingo and playing football for Murray State College, my grandfather was also a story-teller and artist; and was inspiration for me and my art. I am fortunate to be of Chickasaw heritage to continue my grandfather's tradition," Barnes said. "My horses inspire me as they inspired my grandfather. He taught me the quiet excitement for life, and I try to express that 'quiet excitement' through my paintings."

Barnes has won many awards for her work, including Chickasaw Dynamic Women forum artists in 2010 and 2015, Southeastern Art Show and Market (SEASAM) awards from 2009 to 2015, and most recently, Barnes was featured in *The Journal of Chickasaw History and Culture*, a bi-annual journal that features articles on pre-history to modern day events. Barnes has taught art and photography at the high school and college level, and is currently teaching drawing and painting classes at the ARTesian Gallery & Studios in Sulphur, Oklahoma, and at the Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities in Ada, Oklahoma.

Cale Chadwick, Exhibit C, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

At an early age, Cale Chadwick gravitated toward art and has dedicated her career to art and its many formats. Chadwick spends her days working for the Chickasaw Nation, but in her free time she creates pieces of art using her drawing, painting and photography skills. The natural, organic elements found throughout the original Chickasaw allotment that her family still resides on, plays a role in her artwork. Additionally, Chadwick finds motivation for her art from various outlets.

“I’ve stayed true to my Chickasaw roots when it comes to fine art,” said Chadwick. “I’m inspired when I’m around fellow artists, and when I’m in nature, both are great forms of inspiration and motivation,” Mixing medias coupled with my unique style that leans toward the genre of surrealism makes my art stand out from the rest.”

Receiving accolades to her name, Chadwick has won awards from the American Advertising Federation’s Addy Awards along with Telly Awards for her commercial work in film and video. Chadwick earned an associate degree in applied science in graphic design in 2001 from OSU Institute of Technology and has studied film and video production at Oklahoma City Community College.

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Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis, Oklahoma

Located adjacent to Bedré Fine Chocolate, the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center is located at the southwest corner of exit 55 on Interstate 35. Opened in November 2012, the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center has several amenities including a lounge area, vending machines, an outdoor children’s playground and a dog park. Hours of operation are Monday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about the center call (580) 369-4222 or visit Chickasaw Country’s website at ChickasawCountry.com.

Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma

Located across the street from the Artesian Hotel, the Chickasaw Visitor Center is located at the northeast corner of Broadway and State Highway 7 in Sulphur. Opened in November 2013, the Chickasaw Visitor Center includes a lounge area, a gift shop and multi-media video room. Hours of operation are Monday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about the center, call (580) 622-8050 or visit Chickasaw Country’s website at ChickasawCountry.com.

About Exhibit C Art Gallery, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Exhibit C is Bricktown’s newest art gallery and cultural experience. Exhibit C’s art gallery displays works of several artists from the Chickasaw and southeastern tribes and continues the vision of raising awareness of the many cultural and entertainment experiences in Oklahoma set forth by Chickasaw

Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby. Exhibit C is open daily from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. at 1 E. Sheridan, Bricktown. All items located in the Exhibit C art gallery and retail space are for purchase.

About Chickasaw Country

Chickasaw Country is a regional tourism organization representing 13 south-central Oklahoma counties. The marketing department lead by The Chickasaw Nation to blend tourism efforts in the region, Chickasaw Country represents festivals, events and attractions. A very diverse and cultural destination, Chickasaw Country has new adventures around every corner. In 2013, the U.S. Travel Association honored Chickasaw Country with a Destiny award in both the Best Travel Website and Best Use of Social Media Platform categories. The awards were given during the annual Educational Seminar for Tourism Organizations conference.

About the Chickasaw Nation

With more than 50,000 citizens, the Chickasaw Nation is the 12th largest federally-recognized Indian tribe in the United States. The Chickasaw Nation had an economic impact of more than \$2.4 billion in Oklahoma in 2011. The tribe is the seventh largest employer in Oklahoma, with almost 13,000 employees. A democratic republic with executive, legislative and judicial departments, the tribe's jurisdictional territory includes all or part of 13 counties in south central Oklahoma.

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