



NEWS RELEASE

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VISUAL VOICES: Contemporary Chickasaw Art

Now on exhibit through Sept. 9 at FRED JONES JR. MUSEUM OF ART
University of Oklahoma | Norman, Okla.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chickasaw art celebration hosts live music, stickball and artists at OU

NORMAN, OKLA. – University of Oklahoma students and the public are invited to celebrate the vibrancy of contemporary Chickasaw art at the Back to School Student Party at Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art on OU's Norman campus from 7 to 9 p.m., Thursday, August 30.

The party hosted by the museum in the Sandy Bell Gallery will provide an opportunity for students and others to explore the diversity of artwork in *Visual Voices: Contemporary Chickasaw Art*, an exhibition featuring 15 Chickasaw artists and 57 two- and three-dimensional works.

Visitors to the Back to School Student Party will also enjoy free refreshments, interaction with Chickasaw artists on site, a stickball demonstration on the lawn and live music with Sicangu Lakota hip hop artist Frank Wang.

“*Visual Voices* includes themes of social justice, Indigenous identity and cultural revitalization,” said Chickasaw artist Kristen Dorsey, vice chair of a five-member Chickasaw artist board who serve as creative developers of the exhibition. “Self-representation by each artist was a key element throughout the exhibition,” she added.

Chickasaw artists interacting with students during the party include Dustin Mater demonstrating a live paint, digital photographer Lisa Hudson and mixed-media artist Lokosh (Joshua D. Hinson), all featured artists of the exhibit.

Other Chickasaw artists featured in *Visual Voices* include Brenda Kingery, Brent Greenwood, Joanna Blackburn, Kristen Dorsey, Daniel Worcester, Erin Shaw, Billy Hensley, Margaret Roach Wheeler, Paul C. Moore, Maya Stewart, Norma Howard and Tyra Shackelford.

The exhibition was co-curated by Manuela Well-Off-Man, chief curator of the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Santa Fe, and Karen Whitecotton (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), owner of Heritage Museum Services, LLC.

Visual Voices: Contemporary Chickasaw Art will remain on exhibit through Sept. 9 at Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 555 Elm Ave, on the OU Norman campus. The exhibition will be hosted in Spring of next year by the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson, Miss., and the IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, beginning in August 2019 during Santa Fe Indian Market.

The exhibition is made possible by grants provided by the Chickasaw Nation and the National Endowment for the Arts, and by assistance from The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum.

More information about *Visual Voices* is available at www.chickasawartists.com and on the museum's website at www.ou.edu/fjjma.

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