

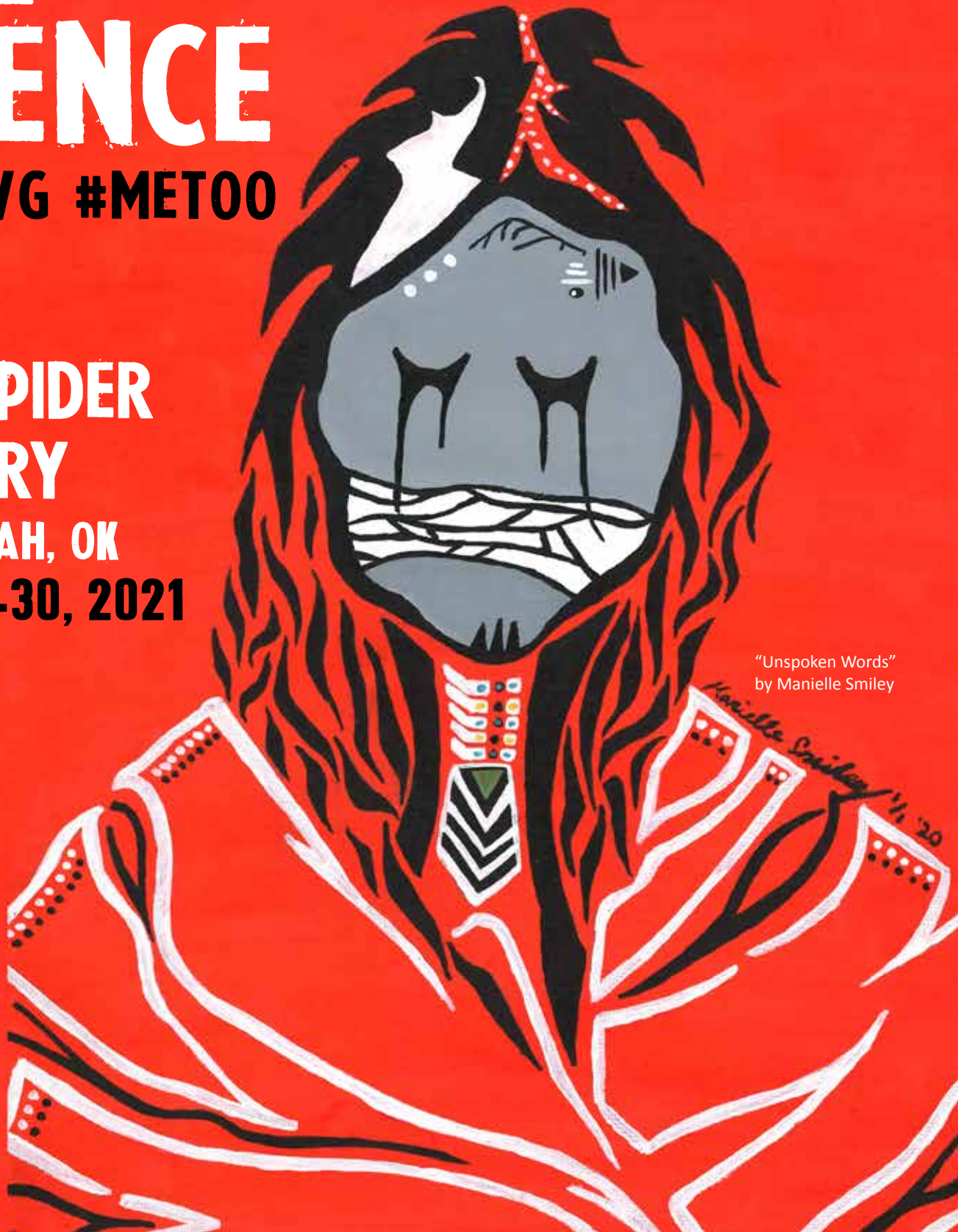
BREAKING THE SILENCE

#MMIWG #METOO

THE SPIDER
GALLERY

TAHLEQUAH, OK

APRIL 1-30, 2021



"Unspoken Words"
by Manielle Smiley

Manielle Smiley 11/20



NORTHEASTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY

BREAKING THE SILENCE

#MMIWG #METOO

Through a coordinated effort between the NSU Center for Tribal Studies, NSU Violence Prevention, NSU Center for Women's Studies, and The Spider Gallery, we are pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Breaking the Silence: #MMIWG #MeToo art show. This show is in conjunction with the 48th Annual Symposium on the American Indian: *Visionaries of Indian Country* and features over 30 artists including grade school and high school students, as well as local, state and nationwide artists.

In recent years, the #MMIWG and #MeToo movement has drawn national attention to the once silenced voices of victims of sexual harassment and assault. Many within our Indigenous communities have taken the opportunity to this conversation and bring to forefront the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Even with the number of undocumented cases, Indigenous women experience sexual assault, violence, and go missing at higher rates than any other ethnic group. Through this exhibit, we hope to draw attention to these issues and provide a safe space for artists, advocate and survivors to break the silence and share their voice, their story and their truth.

If you are interested in purchasing artwork from this show, please contact Alisa Douglas at douglasa@nsuok.edu or call the Center for Tribal Studies at 918-444-4350. A portion of the proceeds from artwork sales will help support NSU's American Indian Emergency Fund – a program designed to help support American Indian students at NSU.



2021 Artists

Danielle Calico

Cherokee

Red Dress Earrings

Beadwork

2"

\$100

Item No. 1

Red dress earrings designed for the #MMIW movement.

Lucinda Cooya

White Mountain Apache

Riverside Indian School

12th Grade

Dancing to Remember

Pencil

12" x 18"

\$50

Item No. 2

Lady Buckskin Dancer dancing for MMIWG.

Vicki Davis

Cherokee Nation

I.Am.Missing

Acrylic on Canvas

11" x 14"

\$200

Item No. 3

Portrait

Too Little

Acrylic on Canvas

16" x 20"

\$250

Item No. 4

The search for Selena Not Afraid 1.1.2020

See me.

Acrylic on stretched canvas

11" x 14"

\$200

Item No. 5

Portrait

Bio: A member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 as both a Set and Costume Designer, her work has been seen on Broadway, Off-Broadway where she is a long-term collaborator at The Mint Theater, Regional Theaters including Arena Stage, the Alliance, Milwaukee Rep, Dallas Theater Center, and Laguna Playhouse, Opera, Dance, and national tours. A White Scholar with a degree from Stephens College, she was a Theater Communications Group/National Endowment for the Arts Design Fellow, and the recipient of a Thomas S. Kenan Breathe Grant. She has held faculty and guest design positions at University of Richmond, Syracuse University, SUNY Binghamton, Colgate, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Ithaca, Queens, and Hamilton Colleges, Columbia University and the SUNY Purchase departments of Opera and Dance. She is on the boards of the Bright Hill Literary Center of the Catskills, and the Franklin Local. Upcoming projects include Fish Tales, a sculpture series for which she received a Decentralization Grant from the New York State Council of the Arts and the Roxbury Arts Group.

Viviona Diaz

Warner High school

12th Grade

Trapped

Acrylic

9" x 12"

\$10

Item No. 6

I painted this on a 9x12 canvas with acrylic paints. The red line over the eyes shows the victims that couldn't be identified and had been lost to such cruel events. The hand is representing any place touched that's non-consenting.

The Silence We Overcome

Acrylic

16" x 20"

\$70

Item No. 7

I was always taught to be quiet so we would not get hurt. I was always allowing others to push me around and lived in fear of what would happen to me because no one would listen to me. I was always feeling trapped in my own home and my own life to some extent. Let us show peace and equality to other races, other ethnicities and other groups who have dealt with this same kind of pain. The Wall for us was the Cherokees' Trail of Tears.

Madison Dilley

Warner High School
10th Grade

Break the Silence

Acrylic
16" x 20"
NFS
Item No. 8

This piece is in black in white except for the red hand prints. It shows three women, each from a different social standing.

Bio: My name is Madison Dilley, I am from Warner, Oklahoma, and I love art. The main reason I got into art was so I could be like my grandmother. We are very native in my family and I grew up watching my grandma sew, bead, and paint. She taught me a lot about my culture and taught me the language. I am very proud of who I am. I love my culture and I love showing it in my artwork.

Nikolle Dixon

Choctaw

Testifying

Poetry
8" x 10"
\$15
Item No. 9

An original poem

You're the Reason Why I Hate Even Stevens

Poetry
8" x 10"
\$15
Item No. 10

An original poem

Invisible

Poetry
8" x 10"
\$15
Item No. 11

An original poem

Bio: Nikolle Dixon, a proud member of the Choctaw Nation, is a graduate of UAFS, where she attained her B.A. in English with a minor in Creative Writing. She is a previous Fiction Genre Editor for the award winning Applause Literary Journal and helped to create the Native American Student Organization at UAFS in 2017. Nikolle has presented her work on Native American culture and legends on multiple occasions throughout the country, and her poetry can be found in journals across the globe.

Serena Etcitty

Navajo
Riverside Indian School
12th Grade

They Are Still With Us

Pen and Pencil
8" x 10"
\$20
Item No. 12

Indian woman representing MMIWG.

Maya Foreman

Seminole/Cherokee
Woodall
6th Grade

Don't be Afraid

Acrylic
11" x 14"
\$40
Item No. 13

Don't be afraid to speak up or be an advocate for someone who is being harassed or sexually assaulted.

Bio: Maya Foreman, age 11, enjoys drawing, painting, creating videos, and constructing found art. She is a TikTok enthusiast, lover of cats, and all things creative. Maya is a proud owner of a rescued tuxedo cat named Mr. Fluffy, whom she loves fondly. She is a Cherokee descendant and citizen of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, member of the Bird clan and belongs to the Tallahassee band. Maya is an aspiring artist and hopes to one day be a famous artist.

Phoenix Garner

Yukon High School
9th Grade

Voices

Watercolor paint and alcohol markers on canvas
16" X 20"
\$50
Item No. 14

The words in yellow are phrases of affirmation: "It's not your fault," "Use your voice," etc.

The words on her blue face are feelings she has: "hopeless," "fear," "fault," etc.

The words on the grey duct tape are words used by her perpetrator to keep her quiet: "silence," "hush," etc.

The words on her mouth: "voice," "speak," etc.

Janae Grass

Sac & Fox/Muscogee Creek/Shawnee

A Blanket to Keep Her Warm

Acrylic, satin, glass beads and thread on canvas

18" x 30"

\$500

Item No. 15

This piece depicts the front of a ribbonwork blanket worn by women in the Great Lakes area, instead of involving intricate colors, there are shades of red to represent the MMIW movement. Ribbonwork blankets were mostly used for special occasions but in this sense it is being used to comfort those who are affected by this epidemic.

Bio: Janae Grass is a Sac & Fox, Muscogee (Creek), and Shawnee artist from Tulsa, Oklahoma. From a young age, she has learned how to make traditional Sac & Fox dresses and applique work, as well as Muscogee patchwork. Her current body of work is inspired by Sac & Fox applique and beadwork designs. Being involved in creating her own applique and beadwork, she has translated these designs over to acrylic paintings that incorporate materials used in her work such as beads and brass. Janae's work will be on view in future exhibitions in the upcoming summer.

Jamie Hammans

Warner High School

12th Grade

Native American Girl Breaking The Silence

Acrylic

12" x 16"

Item No. 16

Native American girl with long black hair, brown eyes, wearing a beaded headband with eagle feathers, a beaded necklace, a fringed buckskin dress and a red hand placed over her mouth.

Cody Hammer

Cherokee/Muscogee

Evolution of the Movement

Photography

16" x 20"

\$200

Item No. 43

The idea was the evolution of the movement. To feel empowered and to stand up for oneself.

Karlee Hart

Warner High School

11th Grade

Break the Silence

Pencil

8" x 10"

NFS

Item No. 17

A red hand print with a woman without a mouth that is keeping her from speaking.

Katherine Hart

Warner High School

Native Girl

Acrylic

11" x 14"

NFS

Item No. 41

On this 11x14 size canvas, I painted with acrylic paint, a Native girl. In this picture, the Native American has a red hand print on her face. This hand print symbolizes the Native American women who have been sexually assaulted.

Hailee Hines

Cherokee

My Voice

Stained glass copper foil method

13" x 11"

\$750

Item No. 18

Stained glass Native American face.

Victor LeRoy

Rosebud Sioux

Riverside Indian School

12th Grade

Lest We Forget (MMIWG)

Pen and Pencil

16" x 18"

\$10

Item No. 19

Amaya Mendez

Sequoyah High School

No More Stolen Sisters

Pencil

8"x10"

NFS

Item No. 20

Deante' Moore

Akimel O'odham

University of North Texas

Graduate school

Those Lost in the Maze

Copic Markers

11" x 14"

NFS

Item No. 21

For my piece, I wanted to include a representation for missing and murdered women, girls and two spirits. The woman in white is wearing pima traditional dress holding her fist in the air to represent resilience, staying strong and keeping faith for overcoming the sad crisis of MMIW. Next to her is a girl who is wrapped around a red blanket to represent protection, love and security. I wanted the background to be mostly gray so the focus can be on the red dresses in the sacred plants of my homelands (ha:sañ) saguaro cactus. The sky is a rainbow to represent the Two spirits who also are affected from this epidemic and are no longer with us. I incorporated lighting and rain clouds to illustrate the creators emotions of anger and sadness. Lastly, my tribe homelands are the Sonoran Desert, so I wanted the artwork to take place in that setting.

Bio: I encourage everyone to do everything they can to contribute to the MMIW epidemic. That may be educating yourself on this topic, spreading awareness or by donating to organizations that are putting in the work to find our missing relatives. P.S. I also create more art and feel free to follow me on Instagram @dearte_ if you would like!

(sapo) thank you!

Ricardo Levins Morales and Simone Senogles

For Our Missing

Mixed Media

12" x 18"

\$120

Item No. 22

This piece was created for missing and murdered indigenous

peoples (especially women and those in the LGBTQP2S community) across Turtle Island. Text by Simone Senogles, Ogimaakwewiwin (Women's Leadership) Program, Indigenous Environmental Network.

For our missing and murdered of all genders across all continents — we call out to you. For those standing up for all of us – Miigwech (Thank You).

Bio: Ricardo Levins Morales is a Puerto Rican artist and organizer based in Minneapolis, MN

Simone Senogles, Ogimaakwewiwin (Women's Leadership) Program, Indigenous Environmental Network. Bemidji, MN

Julie Pendley

Muscogee Creek Nation

Looking for Light

Acrylic on canvas

30" x 30"

\$350

Item No. 24

Void of bright color, with hard violent lines and chaotic repetition, Looking for Light represents the relentless cycles of anger, fear, guilt, anxiety and sadness we often experience as victims of abuse. While we feel obligated to wear a colorful smile in public, our truth is sometimes much darker. This is an attempt to glimpse into that darkness.

The repeating cells are different, but remain constant in their style and lack of color. This pattern represents the loop effect of routinely making the same decisions, living in misery, and failing to seek help. As you make progress and rise out of each space, they become lighter and brighter - more hopeful. Some cells even give way to white light as you escape, only to plunge you right back into the grey darkness.

Bio: Julie Pendley, 53, is a native Oklahoman and proud citizen of the Muscogee Nation. Under direction of her father, and with help from her family, she built a rural home studio in Wagoner county where she lives with her feisty chihuahua, Manuel. In 2015 she founded Bridging the Gap search team, and working with other volunteers they located several missing individuals in their first few months. BTG still assists families of missing, and has helped close dozens of cases over the years. Julie is a print consultant and graphic designer, and has worked in the screen printing industry for over 30 years. Working out of a quirky home studio built almost entirely of recycled and re-purposed materials, Julie experiments with many different artistic mediums and hopes to eventually open her own print shop.

Hannah Powell

Creek

Warner High School
12th Grade

Girl during the night

Acrylic paint

8" x 10"

\$20

Item No. 25

Native women silhouette with night sky behind.

Rhiannon Ross

Cherokee

Passing the Tree of Life

Gold Spray Paint and Glue

14" x 20"

\$200

Item No. 26

We all watched the world change.

We all stood still in hope their word would be kept.

We moved on, not sure on where we would end up.

We allowed the worst to happen because we were helpless to stop it.

We heard our ancestors' cries.

During the Indian Removal, history recorded this forced movement was not an easy pathway. In the worst conditions, tribes were pointed by gun to leave their homes and led to Oklahoma to settle, changing the way of life for many native people.

A Forced Travel

Golden Spray Paint and Glue

14" x 20"

\$200

Item No. 27

Fact of the matter is, anger can carry on through time and pass on to the next generation. History has a morbid why of holding on to emotional turmoil. The tears, the massacred, the communication barriers, and witnessing the power of greed take over an innocent mind frame which is recorded in the past as the development and making of America.

Camilla Russell

Cheyenne & Arapaho

Riverside Indian School
12th Grade

Gone But Not Forgotten

Acrylic

8" x 10"

\$50

Item No. 28

Acrylic painting, "Dancing to Remember."

Konstanze Satterfield

Cherokee

Warner High school

12th Grade

No more

Acrylic

11" x 14"

\$40

Item No. 29

This piece is called "No More." I did this entire piece in acrylic. I've been a strong advocate for MMIW for many years. It makes me proud to be able to express my culture in artwork and advocate for it. It makes me proud to advocate for Native American women.

Manielle Smiley

Navajo

Riverside Indian School Graduate

Unspoken Words

Acrylic

8" x 10"

NFS

Item No. 45

Carrie Smith

I Want This

Acrylic

13" x 19"

\$300

Item No. 30

Dissociating during the sexual act.

Stitching Up

Mixed Media

18.5" x 28.5"

\$300

Item No. 31

Mending the damage caused by an abusive relationship.

Monsters and Men

Acrylic

16" x 20"

\$300

Item No. 32

My second marriage was a disaster.

Bio: I was a rural Oklahoma girl whose backyard was an 80 acre pasture; home to cows, pecan and persimmon trees, ponds and creeks and an old hay barn with ancient farming equipment with mysterious purposes. It was the same 80 acres my mother had been raised on, and it had called her home when the rock-and-roll lifestyle she'd entered with my musician father had become too foreign. She wanted her daughters to grow up the way she had, knowing they were safe in the pasture with the cows and the creatures, and no nearby friends to lead us astray. But as my sister and I grew older, our parents' marriage soured because rural Oklahoma is no place for a musician to make a living, and Dad wouldn't take any other job, so Mom sent him away. She met new men and picked the worst one of them, and they settled in together to drink beer and smoke cigarettes as the house decayed around them. Then our friends from school got licenses and cars, and I made a lot of bad decisions when boys would drive out to pick me up, because I craved escape from the despair of alcoholism and the pointless arguments of the drunken.

The art of my youth was full of fantasy and glamour. I didn't paint my life, but painted as a means to escape my limited opportunities. College had always been my goal growing up, as I knew I wanted a degree in Art. I left that stagnant rural home and began my education in art. The artwork I made during my undergraduate program was all exploratory, trying new media, being influenced by the Art History and other subjects I was being exposed to in my courses. I knew I hadn't found my own style, or my artistic voice yet. After finishing my B.A. in Studio Art at Oklahoma City University, I wanted to teach. It was my passion, and I was ready to go to work. Three months later, I had my first position as a high school art teacher, and for the next twenty years it rarely felt like "work." Teenagers are hilarious, and it's been a joy spending my days opening their minds to new ideas and teaching them the skills to express themselves artistically. My greatest pride are the kids who came to my class with no future career plans, and graduated high school with a college art degree as their goal.

During these years I have also been creating my own artwork, and it has evolved immensely. One of my goals as an artist is to continue to embrace new strategies of expression in my artwork. I need to push myself to be more abstract, painterly, raw and unfinished. I'm searching for the right balance of abstract and realism, unfiltered emotion and symbolism, recognizable images and expression through media. The media I choose most often is acrylic mixed media. I incorporate textures, found objects, collage, textiles, or any other things I feel enhance my expression. The paint is sometimes thickly applied, and sometimes delicately washed in layers. When I went through my first divorce, I had a plethora

of emotions to draw upon and express through my art, and I'd never been more prolific. I did a series of self-portraits to purge myself and keep me sane. Traditional acrylic on canvas wasn't expressive enough, so my work evolved to mixed media. I realized that most everything I paint is now a self-portrait, whether my image is in it or not, due to the personal symbols I use as my visual language. I try to be pure and completely truthful with myself and my viewer. Honesty can be a brutal, raw, exposed wound, or a freshly scrubbed nude body. No matter what, vulnerability is key. Whatever my personal narrative requires is what I paint without artifice – or such is my goal. The story is told through personal symbolism, color, and the degree of realism employed.

My focus is on relationships, usually my own. These things are universal, and though I'm painting my own experiences, people see themselves in my work. I hadn't thought of my life as interesting or relevant to anyone but me, but then I finally understood that even though my story isn't very unique, that's what makes it interesting and worthwhile as a basis for my art: I was a rural Oklahoma girl, now a middle-aged woman. I desperately wanted to escape the hopelessness of my adolescence dependent on parents' small minds dulled by alcohol, but I never really left. Maybe I never will, because this area is my home and I've come to accept and find pride in that. My family, lovers, friends and rivals made me who I am, and I have a lot of stories to tell about those relationships through my artwork.

Summer Spottedwolf

Cheyenne & Arapaho

Riverside Indian School
12th Grade

Walk to Remember

Acrylic
10" x 12"
\$50
Item No. 33

A woman who is lost. She is representing all the other MMIWG in America and Canada. It is snowing and shows red hand prints as she walks.

Run to Remember

Acrylic
10" x 12"
NFS
Item No. 34

A young girl who is running and showing representation for MMIWG. She has a red hand print across her face.

Nathalie Standingcloud

Cherokee

Matoaka

Digital illustration

8.5" x 11"

\$120

Item No. 35

Pocahontas/Matoaka as her real age when she first met John Smith.

Bio: Pocahontas/Matoaka was 11 when she first met John Smith. In the Disney version she is an adult who has a romantic relationship with him.

This movie came out the same year I was born and throughout my life I've heard people say I look like Pocahontas. I later found out that my aunt Kimberly Guerrero was the model for the Disney illustrators and also have had the pleasure of working with Irene Bedard who voiced the character. It wasn't until I did research on Pocahontas that revealed the sad history about her real life and how short it was.

When I discovered Matoaka's truth about her age it broke my heart because I too have had to survive situations where an adult man didn't see or treat me like the child I was; Instead they would pretend I was a grown woman.

Problems like this still exist today, Matoaka is a MMIW who was captured, held for ransom, and her life ended at 21.

Thank you for giving me a safe space to share my story and hers.

Jennifer Thiessen

Cherokee Nation

"Beautiful Cherokee"

Acrylic on Canvas Board

25" x 22"

\$125

Item No. 36

The painting is to raise continued awareness for Aubrey Dameron, a missing Cherokee woman. Aubrey was last seen on March 9, 2019 in Grove, OK. The symbolism in the painting is as follows: the two 7 pointed stars represent the two Cherokee tribes in Oklahoma, the spiral for life's journey, the Cherokee text above Aubrey says "Beautiful Cherokee", the gay pride and trans flags are to celebrate the LGBTQ+ communities.

Mary Thomas

Cherokee

Warner High School

12th Grade

Pain in the Wind

Pencil

8" x 10"

NFS

Item No. 37

A Native woman with her hands covering her eyes. Her hair is blowing in the wind and one hand is red.

Kristina Tome

Seneca

Together

Oil

16" x 20"

NFS

Item No. 38

One in a four part series. It shows three native women looking into the sunset.

Missing

Oil

16" x 20"

NFS

Item No. 41

One woman is missing, it went from three to two.

Emerson Ray Tubby

Florida Seminole

Riverside Indian School Graduate

Looking Through the Eyes of Those Missing

Pencil

8" x 10"

\$30

Item No. 39

Grace Upton

War Women

Pencil

11"x14

\$60

This woman symbolizes the strength women can have. Nancy Ward, Nanyehi, was a young Cherokee woman who[s husband was killed during a Creek raid. Instead of falling apart, she picked up her husband's rifle and the Cherokees to vic-

tory! She was a woman who overcame her abusers, a true War Woman.

Anthony Wamego

Mvskoke

Strength of Our Mothers

Acrylic

24" x 12"

\$300

Item No. 40

Grand Mothers lead us and teach. Mother Earth heals herself when needed. We should look to heal our pain when our spirit has been tortured. Painting – The land Mother Earth is a woman's body and Grand Mother & Grand Child walking as Grand Mother teaches her to Heal herself.

A Mother Waits

Acrylic

\$200

Item No. 42

Bio: Anthony was born in Los Angeles, CA. He was partially raised by his grandmothers in Muskogee, OK. He graduated from Shawnee High School in Shawnee, Okla. He continued his education at the University of New Mexico, majoring in Native American studies. In 1990 he embarked on a career as a stuntman. Appearing in over 20 movies, such as "Last of the Mohicans," "Geronimo", in both film and TNT's version. "From Dusk Til Dawn," "The Missing," and TNT's "Into the West." In 2005, he retired from stunt work and picked up the paint brushes again. He also started a new career as driver/security/assistant for some of today's major actors. He's driven Gary Oldman, Liam Neeson, Rene Russo, Robert Deniro, Chris Hemsworth, and a host of others. Many of these people are in possession of Anthony's work. When he heard of this project, he knew he had to contribute. So this is his way of remembering those we have lost. Mvto.

48TH ANNUAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN

VISIONARIES OF INDIAN COUNTRY



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NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
TAHLEQUAH OKLAHOMA
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Dr. Hank & Jeannie
Van Veen





When we were seniors in high school, he made me the last one in our group. That was not asking, when I would lose mine. At 17, I wasn't sure how to explain that I was more concerned with finding a husband than admitting I lost my virginity, when I was eleven.

Most like I'm eleven again, and we're whispering, just came to say goodnight. Love you, baby.

And your hands are gone, and your eyes take their place. Your words are different – harsher.

pure rage. Lust. It hurts, knowing that someone will feel this pain, because of you and your fear. Because of you, he can – hurt. Ruin them. Because of you. Because of me.

When we were seniors in high school, he made me the last one in our group. That was not asking, when I would lose mine. At 17, I wasn't sure how to explain that I was more concerned with finding a husband than admitting I lost my virginity, when I was eleven.

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