

# EXHIBIT C

## **Show featuring former graffiti artists turned fine artists closing soon at Exhibit C**

*Artists turn to contemporary art to continue Native American traditions*

**OKLAHOMA CITY – (June 22, 2018)** An art show featuring the award-winning art of three American Indian painters is in its final weeks at Exhibit C in Bricktown. The show, titled “Transitions” and showcasing the unique styles of artists Yatika Starr Fields, Hoka Skenadore and Josh Johnico, will close on June 30.

Fields, Skenadore, and Johnico each have a background in graffiti and street art and recently transitioned to fine art. Through their creations, they celebrate Native American culture and test the boundaries of traditional art to make it their own.

“This one-of-a-kind show is not to be missed,” said Paige Williams Shepherd, director of corporate development and tourism for the Chickasaw Nation. “These artists who combine their history in street art with fine art, and then draw from their Native heritage, show how expansive and contemporary Native American art can be.”

Fields, recently named a Tulsa Art Fellow, paints murals across the world. While attending the Art Institute of Boston, he became interested in graffiti aesthetic and landscape painting, which inspires his current works. The swirling patterns of his canvasses and murals are filled with movement and vibrant colors. Fields said his work is meant to “influence viewers to rethink and reshape their relationships to the world around them.”

Skenadore said he grew up in a home where he learned to appreciate traditional Native American art alongside fine art. On his own, he embraced the D.I.Y. ethos of punk rock and hip-hop culture and painted graffiti art. Skenadore currently lives in Norman and is building off of his bachelor of fine arts from Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to pursue a master’s degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Johnico brings a unique take on contemporary art, painting mostly on canvas. Although Johnico has been creative for as long as he can remember, he said taking art classes at a community college restarted his passion for painting and Native art. Through his paintings, Johnico said he works to give concepts new life, sometimes painting his own version of old black and white photos.

“Transitions” can be viewed at Exhibit C in Bricktown through June 30.

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**About Exhibit C**

Exhibit C art gallery and cultural experience is located in Oklahoma City's Bricktown. 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**

Nestled in south-central Oklahoma, Chickasaw Country is a regional tourism organization representing 13 of Oklahoma's 77 counties. As the official destination tourism organization, Chickasaw Country includes 7,648 square miles, 11 percent of Oklahoma's total 68,597 square miles. Chickasaw Country, a division of the Chickasaw Nation, is a tourism source for visitors and communities within the region and promotes destinations, attractions and festivals. Chickasaw Country is a diverse and culturally-vested destination, with new adventures and experiences around every corner.

Media Contact:

Thomas Larson | Koch Communications | [tlarson@kochcomm.com](mailto:tlarson@kochcomm.com) | 405-481-0843