



Native American artists reflect humor, happiness and heritage

Expressive photos, paintings and mixed media art to be displayed across Chickasaw Country

OKLAHOMA CITY– (July 9, 2018) Three American Indian artists, Chance Brown, Laretta Newby-Coker, and John Timothy, will have their artwork featured in south-central Oklahoma July 1 through October 31, 2018.

Visitors to Chickasaw Country can peruse Brown’s paintings at the Chickasaw Nation Information Center in Tishomingo, Newby-Coker’s art at the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis, Oklahoma, and Timothy’s work at the Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur.

“The centers have always provided information about local attractions, and the artistry available to view or purchase provides a deeper insight into the area,” said Paige Williams Shepherd, director of corporate development and tourism for the Chickasaw Nation. “Viewing the artists’ unique works at the tourism centers is just one thing visitors can do to learn about the Native American culture and heritage that defines Chickasaw Country.”

Chance Brown, Chickasaw Nation Information Center, Tishomingo, Oklahoma

Chance Brown is a Chickasaw artist from Ardmore. His passion for art began at a young age when he practiced drawing with his grandmother and a neighborhood friend. Chance pursued art at East Central University where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Art degree in studio art.

Currently, Brown works as the Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities exhibits and gallery coordinator. In addition, Brown serves on several boards and leads a select team of young artists to Belize each summer with the Chickasaw Nation. While there, they work on art projects for the youth at their schools.

“Working in an art field, I see several artists’ artwork all at different stages in their professional career,” Brown said. “By constantly seeing art in my profession, it keeps me active in my pursuits and helps me analyze what works and what may not work in my own subject matter.”

Brown works mostly in portraiture, live drawing, painting, graphite, and pastel. He regularly participates in local markets, and in 2014, Brown commissioned a mural at the East Central University Linscheid Library Tommy Wayne Quaid lounge.

An artist reception will be held for Brown from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., July 14, 2018 at the Chickasaw Nation Information Center in Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

Lauretta Newby-Coker, Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center, Davis, Oklahoma

Lauretta Newby-Coker, a Choctaw citizen and longtime Noble resident, creates stained glass mosaics and mixed media art, as well as water color and oil paintings. Newby-Coker's pieces embody happiness through impressionistic style and subject matter.

"The inspiration for my art is happiness," Newby-Coker said. "We can all recall a very special time or event. I do my best to convey those times or feelings that give happiness within."

Newby-Coker's art is on display across the U.S., including a mural in Hesperia, California; a stained-glass mosaic in Norman; multiple pieces at the Choctaw Regional Health Center in Norman; and more.

"In December 2016, I was one of 12 Oklahoma Artists to create a Christmas Ornament for the Oklahoma Christmas Tree displayed at the White House in Washington, D.C.," Newby-Coker said.

Her pieces have earned awards including the Choctaw Heritage Award and the Best of Division award at the Cherokee Art Market.

John Timothy, Chickasaw Visitor Center, Sulphur Oklahoma

John Timothy is a native Oklahoman who is enrolled Muscogee (Creek) Nation and works as Cultural Interpreter for the Center for American Indians at Bacone College.

He is a multimedia artist who overall features an array of subjects and themes in his art. Timothy is predominately self-taught. His clever wit is seen in many of his pieces, when he focuses on Native American humor reflected from family stories and memories of his childhood.

"My focus when creating, be it a humorous or dramatic piece, is to offer a space that will allow the viewer to see something in themselves and laugh, be touched by suggestion, or suddenly introduced to a reality they were not aware of moments before," Timothy said.

Timothy is also an award-winning flute maker and recording artist, having recorded with recognized Cherokee composer Lisa LaRue as well releasing a solo album titled Invtksa. He has performed at numerous events, including weddings, commencements, appearing on local and national tv and special performances at the State Capital.

Timothy and his wife have traveled and participated in art shows and other venues around the country, winning many awards along the way.

For more information, visit www.chickasawcountry.com.

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Chickasaw Nation Information Center in Tishomingo, Oklahoma

The Chickasaw Nation Information Center serves as a gateway for the many attractions in this historic section of the Chickasaw Nation, including the Chickasaw Capitol Building and Council House Museum, Chickasaw White House, Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge and Blue River. Located at the intersection

of Capitol and Main streets, the 10,700-square-foot Information Center houses the Chickasaw Nation Tourism Department, tribal Office of Special Events, Johnston County Chamber of Commerce and Johnston County Historical Society. To learn more, call 580-387-2762 or visit Chickasaw Country's website at ChickasawCountry.com.

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 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.

About the Chickasaw Nation

With more than 60,000 citizens, the Chickasaw Nation is the 12th largest federally-recognized Indian tribe in the United States. The Chickasaw Nation has an annual economic impact of more than \$2.4 billion in Oklahoma. The tribe has more than 14,000 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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