



## **Multimedia artwork by American Indian artists to be featured in Murray County**

*Photographs and batik art will be on display at the Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur and Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis from July through October*

**OKLAHOMA CITY – (July 1, 2017)** Two American Indian artists, Daniel Worcester and Jane Semple Umsted will have their unique artwork featured at two separate locations in south-central Oklahoma.

From now through October 31, 2017, Worcester's photographs will be on display at the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis, Oklahoma and Umstead's variety of media, including batik, will be showcased at the Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma.

The two artists represent a dynamic range within native art with Worcester's modern photography and Semple's ancient technique of batik, said Paige Williams Shepherd, director of corporate development and tourism for the Chickasaw Nation.

"Each artist is uniquely gifted and has a distinct artistic voice inspired by their passion of their heritage," said Shepherd. "These artists have different stories to convey through their chosen medium, and visitors to Chickasaw Country will be able to experience this diversity found in American Indian art while exploring the Chickasaw Visitor Center and Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center."

### **Daniel Worcester, Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center, Davis, Oklahoma**

Worcester is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and has been capturing works of art through a lens since receiving his first camera as a gift in 1966. Worcester then borrowed a Cannon 35mm from a friend and his love for photography quickly grew. Black and white photography became the mainstay of capturing his subjects on film.

Worcester transitioned to digital photography in 2007 when he began producing his own commercial images. His current compositions include "Native Americans in Pop Culture and Advertising" and images capturing natural Chickasaw surroundings throughout Oklahoma.

Inducted into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame in 2009, Worcester was also named Honored One at the 2013 Red Earth Festival in Oklahoma City. He has received many prestigious awards for his continuing work in the art of bladesmithing as well as writing three books of poetry.

An artist reception will be held for Worcester at the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis on Saturday, July 8 from 1-3 p.m.

### **Jane Semple Umsted, Chickasaw Visitor Center, Sulphur, Oklahoma**

Umsted has spent her life working in a variety of media, which includes oils, acrylics, watercolor, sculpture and the unique media of batik. The batik technique is an ancient method of using melted wax to create lines and shapes and dyes to create the colors, one at a time on fabric. The wax is then removed by ironing.

Umsted is inspired by the themes and visual images of the Choctaw culture. These became the inspiration of her artwork. Emphasis on vibrant color and dramatic design is one of the strongest and most dramatic elements of her work.

Umsted is a descendant of two Choctaw Chiefs and her art exudes the spirit of her native roots.

An artist reception will be held for Umsted at the Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur on Saturday, July 8 from 4-6 p.m. For more information on the artist receptions visit: [www.exhibitgallery.com](http://www.exhibitgallery.com)

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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](http://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](http://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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