



Art that makes you talk.

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PRESS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TULSA – AUGUST 5, 2020

LIVING ARTS OF TULSA ANNOUNCES SPEAK: SPEAK WHILE YOU CAN.

September First Friday Opening: September 4, 2020 from 5:00-8:00 PM.

October First Friday Opening: October 2, 2020 from 5:00-8:00 PM.

Exhibition will be up in the gallery to view from September 4 – October 16, 2020 by appointment only. Please call 918-585-1234 or email info@livingarts.org to set up a viewing.

CURATORS' STATEMENT:

The beating heart of any culture is its spoken language. If the language disappears, the culture perishes. Among indigenous cultures and peoples in Indian Country—formerly Indian Territory, now Oklahoma—this truth hits too close to home for many. And yet the resilience of our peoples—once forcibly removed from homelands and punished or shamed for speaking our native languages—has led to a renaissance of language revitalization and preservation efforts. This is nowhere more evident than in the work of contemporary indigenous artists in Oklahoma. Native artists' voices speak from the front lines of cultural engagement, in a visual language that displays the power of words, whether spoken, written, or in the case of this exhibition, painted with a brush.

The works in this exhibition make clear that our languages are still—and will always be—an integral part of our identity as Native peoples. Equally important is the reality that time is not on our side—fluent tribal speakers are passing on, and the race is on to ensure the survival of these heart languages for future generations. As the title *Speak: Speak While You Can* makes clear, these artists have an urgent message: that we must speak up with our art, proclaiming with visual voices the message that our languages are the lifeblood of our cultures.

Tony A. Tiger (Sac & Fox/Seminole/Muscogee) and Bobby C. Martin (Muscogee/Creek)

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:

Marwin Begaye (Dine)
Antonia Belinda (Kiowa)
Jay Benham (Kiowa)
Roy Boney, Jr. (Cherokee)
Maggie Boyett (Shawnee/Delaware/Kiowa)
Leslie Deer (Muscogee Creek)
Chase Kahwinhut Earles (Caddo)
Michael Elizondo Jr, (Southern Cheyenne)
Anita Fields (Osage/Muscogee Creek)
Tom Fields (Muscogee Creek/Cherokee)
Kristin Gentry (Choctaw)
Keli Gonzales (Cherokee)
Brent Greenwood (Chickasaw/Ponca)
Lester Harragarra (Kiowa)
Lokosh (Joshua D. Hinson) (Chickasaw)
Ruthe Blalock Jones (Shawnee/Delaware)
Bobby C. Martin (Muscogee Creek)
America Meredith (Cherokee)
Melinda Schwakhofer (Muscogee Creek)
Amber DuBoise Shepherd (Dine/Sac & Fox)
Hoka Skenandore (Oneida/Oglala Lakota/Luiseno)
Kindra Swafford (Cherokee)
Candessa Tehee (Cherokee)
Tony A. Tiger (Sac & Fox)
Randy Narcomey Watson (Muscogee Creek)
Margaret Roach Wheeler (Chickasaw)

PARTICIPATING TRIBES:

Caddo Nation
Cherokee Nation
Chickasaw Nation
Choctaw Nation
Delaware Nation
Kaw Nation
Kiowa Tribe
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Navajo Nation
Osage Nation
Ponca Tribe
Sac & Fox Nation
Seminole Nation
Shawnee Tribe
Southern Cheyenne

Email Sina McLin at admin@livingarts.org for more information or to request further images.

Special thanks to:



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