



BILLY HENSLEY

Tribal Affiliation: Chickasaw

Contact Exhibit C Native Gallery & Gifts for pricing

Billy Hensley is passionate about the history of his people but even more so about the future.

Hensley has a strong desire to bring modern Chickasaw culture and artwork into the mainstream. Standing on the foundation of the rich history his ancestors provide, his goal is to be part of a movement to help current Chickasaw artists gain a foothold in the global art community. He strives to focus on not only what it means to be Chickasaw, but also what it means to be a Chickasaw artist in today's world.

Hensley grew up in Sulphur, Oklahoma, the heart of Chickasaw Country. His Chickasaw grandmother, Katherine Cunningtubby (McGuire), was very proud of her Chickasaw heritage and instilled that same pride in his father that was passed down to Billy. He discovered his love for art as a child and has worked hard to cultivate these skills.

Hensley's first technical training came from his high school art teacher and mentor, Mr. Paul Walsh, who inspired and encourage him to focus on his artwork. Throughout his adult life, Hensley has practiced and studied art, but mostly remains a self-taught artist.

Hensley finds inspiration in everyday life and the nostalgia it brings. He believes the subject of the painting is irrelevant and the emotional response to the subject is what truly matters. Hensley currently works in pen and ink, acrylic and mixed media but is always attempting new things. Hensley has no desire to be confined by the style of his artwork or placed within a box; he is simply an artist. Hensley believes art is something that comes from the heart and a truly successful piece of work should need no explanation

1. "Headed West" / Acrylic on Canvas / 36H x 48W
2. "Winchester Pinstripe" / Acrylic on Canvas / 48H x 24W
3. "Elias" / Acrylic on Canvas / 36H x 24W
4. "Heron Woman" / Acrylic on Canvas / 60H x 48W
5. "Akankabi" / Acrylic on Canvas / 24H x 12W
6. "Gar Hunter" / Acrylic on Canvas / 40H x 16W



