

CHICKASAW COUNTRY

“VISUAL NARRATIVES: FIRST AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY”

Featured Artists



Jim Trosper

Chickasaw

Chickasaw citizen Jim Trosper believes that the fundamentals of good photography are needed to create a good photo, but emotion is essential to producing a great image. From an early age this shutterbug rarely was without a camera in hand, taking pictures during family vacations and elsewhere. He attended the University of Central Oklahoma, where he earned a degree in photographic arts. As a professional photographer, Trosper has spent much of his time capturing live bands at the Zoo Amphitheatre in Oklahoma City, OK, live horse racing at Remington Park in Oklahoma City, OK and destinations, such as White Sands National Park in New Mexico.



Kelly Langley

Chickasaw

Native Oklahoman Kelly Langley, PhD is a retired educator and member of the Chickasaw Nation. Her early interest in photography was rediscovered as an adult while living in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah, where she spent time exploring the region's beauty and national parks. Her award-winning images have been exhibited in museums and galleries, as well as juried competitions throughout the southwest. While many of her landscape photographs recall her rural Oklahoma upbringing, Dr. Langley's portfolio also highlights a range of subjects fostered by her keen interest in the world around her and a love of travel.



Philip Busey Jr.

Cherokee

In 2002, Philip Busey Jr., a Cherokee Nation citizen, first picked up a camera while participating in the Washington Internship for Native Students (WINS) Program at American University in Washington, D.C. That led to a solo exhibition at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, where he enrolled, and catapulted him to becoming the staff photographer for the campus's weekly student newspaper as well as a photographer for a local daily newspaper and the university's public relations office. For more than a decade, from 2004 to 2015, he all but abandoned photography, only to rediscover his passion after establishing a career as an executive in the aerospace defense industry. His stills focus on landscape and art.



Peggy Fontenot

Patawomeck

Los Angeles-based artist Peggy Fontenot, a member of the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia and a certified Potawatomi artist, works in various mediums, including photography, beadwork and precious metals. Her photographs document relevant social issues, including the plight of First Americans. Her work, which has been exhibited nationally for nearly 40 years, has graced the walls of the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D. C., the Briscoe Museum in San Antonio, TX and the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe, NM just to name a few. She remains devoted to film foregoing digital imagery, and still processes her prints in her wet darkroom using a Split-Filter technique.



Lester Harragarra

Otoe-Missouria, Kiowa

Photographer Lester Harragarra's First American roots run deep. A member of the Otoe-Missouria tribe and a descendant of the Kiowa tribe, his father was a World War II veteran and former tribal chairman. His paternal grandfather was one of the last hereditary chiefs of the Otoe-Missouria tribe, while his paternal grandmother is credited with initiating the first all American Indian War Mothers chapter in 1943. His mother was one of the first members of the Kiowa tribe to graduate from the University of Oklahoma, class of 1951. Harragarra's interest in photography began at an early age when an aunt presented him with his first camera for his 8th birthday. While attending the University of New Mexico, where he studied engineering, he purchased a 35 mm camera and spent hours in the darkroom. His photographs capture the brilliant colors of First American headdresses and ribbon skirts as well as haunting images of buffalo and life on the range.