

Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, NC, Offers Exhibit of Contemporary Cherokee Art

The Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, NC, is presenting *A Living Language: Cherokee Syllabary and Contemporary Art*, which features over 50 works of art in a variety of media by 30+ Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and Cherokee Nation artists. The exhibition will be on view through Oct. 31, 2021, when it moves to the Asheville Art Museum's Appleby Foundation Exhibition Hall, and will be on view from Nov. 19, 2021 to Mar. 14, 2022.

The exhibition highlights the use of the written Cherokee language, a syllabary developed by Cherokee innovator Sequoyah (circa 1776–1843). Cherokee syllabary is frequently found in the work of Cherokee artists as a compositional element or the subject matter of the work itself.

The Cherokee Syllabary is a system of writing developed by Sequoyah in the early 1800s prior to the Removal period. Through Sequoyah's innovative work, Cherokee people embraced the writing system as an expedient form of communication and documentation. During the Removal period, the syllabary was used as a tactic to combat land dispossession. Cherokee people continue to use the syllabary as a form of cultural expression and pride, which is showcased in the contemporary artwork of the Cherokee Citizens in this exhibition.

"We're pleased to host this gathering of works from contemporary Cherokee artists, who perfectly illustrate how our language is a living and evolving part of who we are. It's moving to see how each artist finds inspiration in their own way from this language that connects us as Cherokee people," said Shana Bushyhead Condill, executive director of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian.



View outside the Museum of the Cherokee Indian

"The Asheville Art Museum and the Museum of the Cherokee Indian have been long-term collaborators, and we are delighted to further our partnership by working together to manage an open call to Cherokee artists and subsequently curate this exciting exhibition of contemporary works that take inspiration from, celebrate, preserve and interpret the syllabary," said Pamela L. Myers, executive director of the Asheville Art Museum. "On view at both museums, we hope the exhibition engages a wide and diverse audience in dialogue with these extraordinary works."

A Living Language: Cherokee Sylla-



Rhiannon Skye Tafoya (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), "Ul'nigid", 2020, letterpress (photopolymer and Bembo & Cherokee Syllabary metal type) printed on handmade & color plan paper with paperweaving, closed: 11 x 11 1/4 inches, assembled: 23 1/2 x 11 1/4 x 5 inches. Courtesy the Artist. © Rhiannon Skye Tafoya, image Rhiannon Skye Tafoya.

bary and Contemporary Art is organized by the Asheville Art Museum and Museum of the Cherokee Indian, and curated by Hilary Schroeder, assistant curator at the Asheville Art Museum, with assistance from curatorial consultant Joshua Adams (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians). Special thanks to S. Dakota Brown, education director at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, and Alexis Meldrum, curatorial assistant at the Asheville Art Museum, for their support in the planning of this exhibition. This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership, and sponsored in part by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation and Kevin Click & April Liou in memory of Myron E. Click.

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians artists include: Joshua Adams, Jody Lipscomb Bradley, Nathan Bush, Kane Crowe, John Henry Gloyne, Shan Goshorn, Luzene Hill, Christy Long, Louise Bigmeat Maney, Christopher McCoy, Tara McCoy, Joel Queen, Sean Ross, Jakeli Swimmer, Rhiannon Skye Tafoya, Mary Thompson, Stan Tooni Jr., Alica Wildcatt, and Fred Wilnoty.

Cherokee Nation artists include: Roy Boney Jr., Jeff Edwards, Joseph Erb, Raychel Foster, Kenny Glass, Camilla McGinty, Jessica Mehta, America Meredith, Jane Osti, Lisa Rutherford, Janet L. Smith, Jennifer Thiessen, and Jennie Wilson.

Established in 1948, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian is one of the longest operating tribal museums. Recognized for its innovative storytelling, the Museum features exhibits, artwork, and hands-on technology that brings over 15,000 years of Cherokee history to life. Located in Cherokee, NC, the Museum is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/497-3481 or visit (<https://mci.org/>).

Southern Highland Craft Guild Offers Annual Heritage Days at Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC - Sept. 18, 2021

The 41st Annual Heritage Day will be held on Sept. 18, 2021, at the Blue Ridge Parkway's Folk Art Center from 10am-4pm. This free celebration of mountain heritage is held by the Southern Highland Craft Guild and features demonstrations of traditional crafts accompanied by music.

A highlight of the event is the Annual World Gee Haw Whimmy Diddle Competition held at 2pm. A Whimmy Diddle is an Appalachian mountain toy traditionally made from two sticks of rhododendron. Notches are carved into one stick and a propeller is attached to the end. Rubbing the notches with the second stick makes



View from previous Heritage Days event

the proper spin. Can you get it to gee (spin to the right) and haw (spin to the left)?

During the World Gee Haw Whimmy
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Diddle Competition, contestants are judged on the number of rotations between gees and haw they can complete during a given time. They may be asked to switch hands or whimmy diddle behind their back. All ages may compete with trophies given for best child, adult, and professional. Winners receive a moon pie and bragging rights.

Ongoing demonstrations will include traditional woodworking with traditional tools, weaving, spinning, dyeing, broom-making, stone carving, blacksmithing, soap-making, and printmaking. Visitors will have the opportunity to try their own hand at some of the crafts at an activity table. A music stage will provide further entertainment with bluegrass and gospel music. The band schedule can be found at (craftguild.org/event/heritage-day/).

The Blue Ridge Parkway's Folk Art Center is the ideal place for Heritage Day! There is free parking and a grassy area for picnics and relaxation. Spend an early autumn day in WNC honoring and learning about the crafts of yesteryear. Tour the Folk Art Center and maybe take a walk through the woods.



View from previous Heritage Days event

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to cultivate the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing, and conservation. The Guild is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 of the Blue Ridge Parkway, just north of the Highway 70 entrance in East Asheville, NC.

For more information, including a list of participating craftspeople and musicians, call 828/298-7928 or visit (www.craftguild.org). We hope to see y'all there!

Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Kate Thayer

The Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Beckoning In*, featuring works by Kate Thayer, on view from Sept. 1 - 30, 2021. A reception will be held on Sept. 3, from 5-8pm.

Visitors to the gallery will have the entire month to view her oil-on-linen landscapes of nature, all done in a style she describes as "Textural Impressionist."

Thayer's paintings focus on the beauty of nature. Her "Textural-Impressionist" style utilizes seasonal palettes and the movement and slowly-changing colors in the cycles of nature. "Nature is life-giving," says Thayer. "It is what recharges our spirit and enriches our lives. The aim of my paintings is to share my encounters with the moods of nature using the unique



Work by Kate Thayer

palettes within each season. When viewers lose themselves within my paintings, they interpret the scene, creating their own personal connection with the place."

Thayer began painting only after mov-
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