

Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County in Fayetteville, NC, Offers Exhibition Focused on Native American Life, by Native American Artists

Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County in Fayetteville, NC, will present *Redefining Indigenous: Indigenous Art of the Past, Present and Future*, curated by John ManiQ Whittemore, on view at The Arts Center gallery, from Nov. 1 - 29, 2024. A reception will be held on Nov. 1, from 6-8pm.

Redefining Indigenous aims to spotlight the rich and evolving narratives of Native American life within our region. Most of the surviving members of Native tribes in the US reside on the East Coast, comprising 4.7 million of the country's 9 million Indigenous descendants. Frequently stereotyped and exploited, *Redefining Indigenous* is a reclaiming and reintroduction of the modern-day Native American experience through the arts. It explores living in the modern world while honoring our ancestors and preparing the next generations. This exhibition invites the public to experience works from various tribes, celebrating cultural adaptations that honor the past while embracing the present and future.

The goal of *Redefining Indigenous* is to reclaim and reintroduce the modern-day experiences of Native Americans through the arts. This exhibition challenges outdated stereotypes, counters exploitation, and celebrates the resilience, identity, and cultural adaptation of Indigenous peoples in the modern world. By showcasing the works of regional artists from various tribes, *Redefining Indigenous* provides a unique opportunity for the public to engage with evolving narratives and artistic expressions that honor ancestral heritage while reflecting contemporary realities.

John ManiQ Whittemore, the exhibit

curator, is a member of the Tuscarora Nation Of North Carolina. He has been heavily involved in his culture as an Artist, Dancer, Activists, Cultural Teacher, and Councilor. Whittemore has been an artist his whole life known for mixing street art with fauvism and always painting on thrown out materials. He is currently working in media with a focus on videography and photography. He has always had a passion for the arts and getting people involved in self expression.

Terry White, an exhibit juror, is a Croatan / Cheraw member of the Lumbee tribe of North Carolina. He is a Culture Keeper, Dancer, Singer, and Artist. He is very active in his tribal community and is known for his drum creations and feather fan work which many dancers dance with.

Marcus Dunn, an exhibit juror, is a member of the Tuscarora Nation Of NC. He is a Graduate of the Arts from the American Indian Institute of Arts. Dunn is a Singer, Dancer, Culture Keeper, Educator and Celebrated Artist. He has toured throughout showcasing his paintings along with his culture.

Evryn Richardson, an exhibit juror, is a member of the Haliwa Saponi tribe and an adopted Kiowa member. She is a Dancer, Creator, Artist, Culture Keeper, Activist, and Designer. She is well known for her works within her design company "The Medicine Kid" which makes indigenous fashion and collectables.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 910/323-1776 or visit (<https://www.theartscouncil.com/>).

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Craven Allen Gallery in Durham, NC, Offers Exhibition of Works Selected by Beverly McIver

The Craven Allen Gallery in Durham, NC, will present *Beverly McIver: Painters I Love*, on view from Nov. 16 through Jan. 25, 2025. A reception will be held on Nov. 16, from 5-7pm.

Painters I Love features works by Michael Dixon, Richard Garrison, Clarence Heyward, Pedro Lasch, William Paul Thomas and Lamar Whidbee. For this show, McIver selected artists that she believes are modern masters in the art of painting. "Michael, Richard, Clarence, Pedro, William and Lamar are members of my art family" she says, "they are very talented creatives, and we have all been longtime supporters of each other."

The exhibiting artists paint in a variety of styles, from figurative to non-representational. The common thread in their work, McIver explains, is that "they are not afraid to be vulnerable when creating, they enjoy expressing a bit of humanity through paint. We all understand that our craft is our first love, and we will support each other unconditionally."

As the guest curator, Beverly McIver says that her goal with this exhibition is to "invite viewers on a journey to explore relationships between friends and fellow artists, creating a harmonious voice about humanity and vulnerability."



Work by Michael Dixon, Beverly McIver, and Lamar Whidbee

McIver offered the following curatorial statement, "Artists will often develop a 'family' outside of their biological kin. This 'family' consists of a mix of creative souls, each with an understanding of the creative process and the art world. William, Michael, Richard, Lamar, Clarence and Pedro are all special members of my art family. At various points they may have been colleagues, students, or collaborators. In every case, the thing that has most drawn me to these artists is their incredible skills as painters."

"This exhibition invites viewers to explore the relationships between fellow artists, creating a harmonious voice about humanity and vulnerability," added McIver.

Beverly McIver is widely acknowledged as a significant presence in contemporary American art and has charted a new direction as a Black female artist.

She has accumulated more awards and honors than many artists receive in a lifetime, which she pays forward by teaching younger generations about the power of art and the hard work it takes to make it a career. There are numerous artists today who credit McIver for their professional



Work by Lamar Whidbee

achievements.

McIver grew up in Greensboro, NC, as one of three daughters - including her sister, Renee, who has developmental disabilities - of a single mother who worked multiple domestic jobs to make ends meet. The artist's paintings are reminders to herself and her audience of the journey she endured in order to understand the many aspects that collectively shape her identity. The images are also powerful statements about larger issues that affect and challenge everyone, including stereotypes, self-acceptance, family, otherness, illness, death and, ultimately, freedom to express one's individuality.

McIver's work can be found in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian, the North Carolina Museum of Art, the Weatherspoon Art Museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Nelson Fine Arts Center Art Museum at Arizona State University, and the Mint Museum, to name a few. McIver is Professor of the Practice in Studio Arts at Duke University, and prior to this appointment, taught at Arizona State University for 12 years. Recent honors include a yearlong residency at the American Academy in Rome, where she was featured in *Beverly McIver e il colore nero*, a documentary for Italian television.

In 2017, McIver received the lifetime achievement award from the Anyone Can Fly Foundation in a ceremony hosted by Faith Ringgold. McIver was named one of the "Top Ten in Painting" in Art in America in 2011.

Raising Renee, a feature-length documentary film produced in association with HBO by Academy Award-nominated and award-winning filmmakers Steven Ascher and Jeanne Jordan - tells the story of McIver's promise to care for Renee when their mother dies. The film played in festivals around the country, was nominated for an Emmy® for Outstanding Arts and Culture Programming and is now available

For more info call the gallery at 919/286-4837 or visit (www.cravenallengallery.com).