



For Immediate Release

Shawnee Tribe Cultural Center
19 N. Eight Tribes Trail
Phone (907) 512-7578
Home page: <http://www.shawneeculture.org>
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CONTACT: Marnie Leist, director@shawneeculture.org

New Interactive Exhibit to Open in Miami, OK

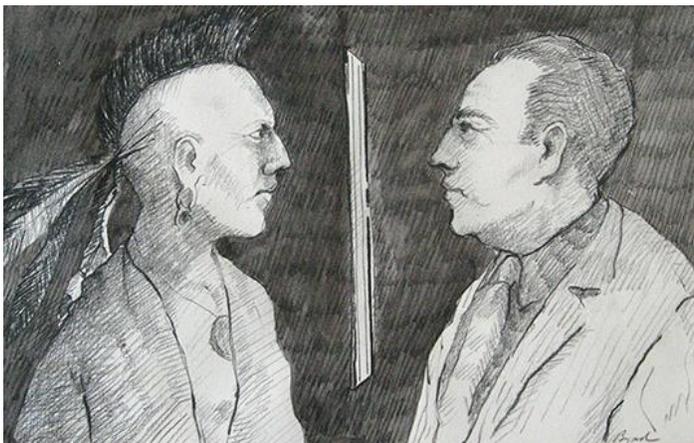
Opening Saturday, March 7, *Byrd's Eye View* showcases the art of Shawnee artist Gibson Byrd, who was a lifelong artist and teacher. Director Marnie Leist explains, "It's not just a static display. Visitors can view his paintings and drawings and then can participate in interactive painting and drawing activities. We are particularly excited about the twelve-foot long community coloring mural." One of Byrd's paintings was turned into an illustration that participants will complete.

The exhibit is being offered because of the generosity of the Byrd family. "Creating exhibits at the cultural center can be particularly challenging," says Exhibits and Programs Manager Natalie Wadle. "With the cultural center being new, there are no collections to exhibit, thus we are working with community members to curate exhibits. In this case, the Byrd family has generously donated the artwork to the Tribe so citizens and the community will be able to enjoy his work."

"We are so excited to be able to share our father's, D. Gibson Byrd's, artwork with the community", expresses his children Brian Byrd and Gwain Byrd Meyer. "He spent many enjoyable years teaching and inspiring his students. He often chose to share his respect for his Shawnee roots, as well as to raise awareness of Native culture through his artwork. An exciting combination of his artwork accompanied by unique art education activities at the Shawnee Tribe Cultural Center means very much to our families.

Other museums are also contributing the exhibit. In the Science of Art activity, participants can use an easy-view microscope to compare dyed and painted historic and ancient Native American objects. The Denver Art Museum, Gilcrease Museum, and the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository are lending pieces for the activity.

The exhibit activities will also be offered as publicly available education boxes, mobile units that can travel to area schools and events, and as an online exhibit. To learn more, sign up for monthly email newsletters via www.shawneeculture.org or follow the Center on social media.



Through the Glass, Gibson Byrd