

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JULY 25, 2017**  
**AUGUST 2017 EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS, FAYETTEVILLE UNDERGROUND GALLERY**

- **OPENING RECEPTION: FIRST THURSDAY AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup> • 5 – 9 PM**

**FEATURE:  
 DEEP  
 ROOTS**

**CONTEMPORARY ART IN NATIVE AMERICA: DEEP ROOTS** is a featured exhibition for August highlighting artists, **Roy Boney, Leah Cowden, Jeff Edwards, Wanbli Gamache** and **Bobby C. Martin** as they express the impact of life through their art, and the ownership of intellectual cross-currents that inform the contemporary art space within which they reside. Their works signify experiences at the root of their cultural survival to these times. These artists come from a background of deep participation as citizens of the Cherokee Nation, Cherokee Nation card holder, enrolled Muscogee, or identifying in the Indigenous diaspora because of movement and mixture. This exhibition is supported by the Walmart Foundation.

**FEATURE:  
 GRAFFITI +  
 POP ART**

Publicly sanctioned wall murals and outdoor art are a mash-up of sign painting, Graffiti inspired spray painting, cartooning, glitch art and fine art. As artists are brought into the region to diversify its character, local talent and expertise will no doubt be sought after by other communities to help reveal their own public beauty. Come see the work behind some of the public art that can already be found throughout the Northwest Arkansas region.

**FEATURE:  
 FARMING BY  
 THE ROOTS**

Fayetteville Underground Gallery also features **KNOW YOUR FARMER, KNOW YOUR FOOD** a photo exhibit by **Joshua Duke** showcasing farmers in their natural habitats with their favorite tools, animals and plants.

**ROY BONEY • LEAH COWDEN • JEFF EDWARDS • WANBLI GAMACHE • BOBBY C MARTIN**



**ROY BONEY, Jr. ᏍᏏᏏᏏ** is a full blood citizen of the Cherokee Nation living in Tahlequah, OK. He is an award winning filmmaker, artist, writer and language preservationist. His work has been shown throughout the United States and internationally. Boney's art is based in Cherokee stories, language and tradition combined with contemporary elements such as science fiction and rock music. He is currently in the group exhibition, *Return from Exile: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art*. Roy Boney holds a BFA in Graphic Design from Oklahoma State University and an MA in Studio Art from the University of Arkansas, Little Rock.



**LEAH COWDEN** is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation who lives with her family in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Her passion for art began at a very young age when she realized that drawing was a way to express her feelings. Today, that same cathartic element is evident in her paintings rendered on doors. The doors represent the passage to a higher emotional plane and reflection of the viewer's own soul. Cowden graduated from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville with a BA in Psychology.



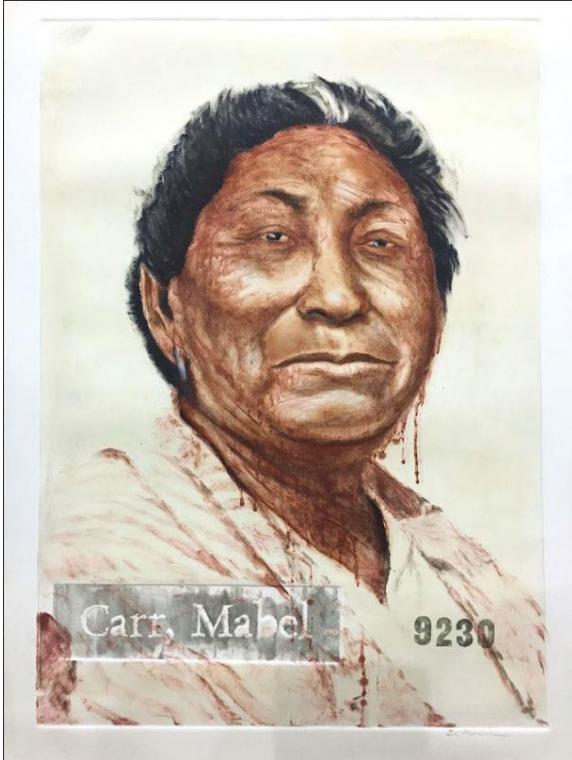
**JEFF EDWARDS** is an award winning Cherokee graphic artist who has worked for the Cherokee Nation for 17 with the Cherokee language in varying degrees. He is a language activist working with Education Services Language Technology Group at Cherokee Nation and the primary goal is to work with technology companies to have the Cherokee language represented on phones,

tablets and operating systems. Jeff says his artwork is almost exclusively Cherokee themed, always trying to display the Cherokee syllabary to some degree, in an attempt to promote the Cherokee language and likes using old cultural concepts but expressing them with modern electronic tools. He is currently in the group exhibition, *Return from Exile: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art*. Edwards attended Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS and received his BA in Graphic Design from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK.



**WANBLI GAMACHE** is of the Native American diaspora with roots in the Cherokee and Sioux Nations. Wanbli's "most recent work focuses on large-scale installation projects that incorporate sound, video and sculpture. He is intrigued by the relationship between viewer and art, exploiting electronics and robotics technology to create an interactive experience."

Wanbli Gamache received a BA in Anthropology and did post graduate work in art at the University of Arkansas, and is about to enter the MFA program this fall at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



**BOBBY C MARTIN** is a printmaker, painter, educator and curator who works out of his 7 Springs Studio near West Siloam Springs, Oklahoma. Martin's artwork is exhibited and collected internationally. He has been featured in numerous group and solo exhibitions, the most recent being a one-person exhibition entitled *Back in the Day*, in the East Gallery of the Oklahoma State Capitol in 2011. An enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) tribe, Martin is highly active in the contemporary Native art world. In 2013, he curated *Indian Ink*, an exhibition of historic and contemporary Native printmakers from the Dr. J.W. Wiggins Collection of Native American Art in Little Rock, Arkansas. His most recent curatorial project is a national touring exhibition, *Return from Exile: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art*, which is

on display at various museums and art centers throughout the United States through 2018. Martin's work is in numerous museum collections, including the Philbrook Museum and Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, and the Sam Noble Museum in Norman, Oklahoma. Martin currently holds a Professor of Visual Arts position at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. He frequently leads printmaking workshops and artist retreats at his studio and at museums and art centers in the Midwest. Martin says, "old family photographs passed down from my full-blood Muscogee (Creek) grandmother, my mother, and my aunts and cousins provide a nearly endless supply of resources for my artwork.

*The Fayetteville Underground is a Gallery of the Fayetteville Art Alliance. Our mission is to promote the visual arts in Northwest Arkansas by collaborating with the community, supporting artists, and encouraging education and public engagement in the arts. Underpinning this mission is our belief that quality of life is enhanced through exposure to art. The universal language of visual art is an especially exciting way to receive and exchange information. Individuals and communities participate in creative learning practices when they can identify culturally. Because of this, we reach into cultural micro-communities to bring thematic exhibitions that reflect those communities and send a direct message of inclusiveness. These opportunities serve to enrich our entire populations and encourage education and public engagement.*

*The work of the Fayetteville Underground Gallery is supported in part by the Arkansas Arts Council.*

Fayetteville Underground Gallery  
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