

AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

A project of the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority

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Contact: Shoshana Wasserman

Phone: 405.239.5503

Email: shoshanaw@aiccm.org

Remembering Native Roots During The Thanksgiving Holiday

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Early settlers of Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts were grateful to Squanto, the Native American who taught them how to catch eel, grow corn and who served as their native interpreter. They knew they might not have survived in the New World without a Native to help them acclimate. The Plymouth settlers, now known as "Pilgrims" set apart a holiday immediately after their first harvest in 1621, when they held an autumn celebration of food, feasting, and praising God. The Native American chiefs Massasoit, Squanto and Samoset joined in the celebration with ninety of their men in the three-day event. President Abraham Lincoln first declared Thanksgiving a Federal holiday as a "prayerful day of Thanksgiving" on the last Thursday in November. With this kind of rich history associated with the National holiday and with Oklahoma being home to more diverse tribes than any other state, what better way to celebrate with family and friends than by attending a contemporary expression of Native American Culture. Artrain USA, America's Hometown Art Museum, is coming to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The **American Indian Cultural Center & Museum (AICCM) and Red Earth, Inc (Red Earth)** will present Artrain USA, the nation's only traveling art museum on a train; the public can tour the museum located at the Santa Fe Train Depot located at 100 E.K. Gaylord Blvd. on **Sunday, November 25, 2007 from Noon-5pm. Admission is free.** Don't miss the opportunity to see this contemporary Native Art exhibit on the last leg of its successful four-year tour. Artrain USA offers an entertaining, educational and informative experience for visitors of all ages. While onboard vintage rail cars, visitors can tour the three art galleries, watch artists at work and purchase original works of art or souvenirs from the museum gift shop.

Native Views, recently designated an American Masterpiece by her National Endowment for the Arts, is a contemporary Native American art exhibition touring coast to coast onboard Artrain USA. *Native Views: Influence of Modern Culture* explores the many commonalties Native and non-Native people share. Visitors discover the richness, complexity and breadth of contemporary Native American art while examining varying perspectives on society. Guest curator, Joanna Bigfeather (Western Cherokee and Mescalero Apache) redefines Native art by broadening the limits and confronting the stereotypes that currently define it. Featured among the 70 artworks by 53 renowned Native American artists are diverse works by, Steven Yazzie (Navajo) and Alex Jacobs (Akwesasne Mohawk). There are a number of artists that are Native Oklahoman's or

through tribal affiliation have historical relationships with Oklahoman such as: Norman Akers (Osage), Marcus Amerman (Choctaw), Barry Coffin (Potawatomi and Muscogee Creek), Douglas Coffin (Potawatomi and Muscogee Creek), Anita Fileds (Osage), Jesse T Humingbird (Cherokee), Linda Lomahaftewa (Hopi and Choctaw), Anita Fields (Osage), Kay Walkingstick (Cherokee), Richard Ray Whitman (Euclidean, Muscogee Creek Nation), and Phil Young (Cherokee, Scottish and Irish).

AICCM and Red Earth appreciate local support from the Oklahoma Arts Council, Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association, Brewer Entertainment and the Cheyenne & Arapaho Culture and Heritage Program. Railroad transportation for Artrain USA is provided by Burlington Northern Santa Fe.

Support for Artrain USA and the national tour of *Native Views* comes from 3M Commercial Graphics, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation, DeRoy Testamentary Foundation, the Ford Foundation, The William Randolph Hearst Foundations, Hobbs+Black Architects, IBM, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Michigan Council for the Arts & Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Rockefeller Foundation, The St. Paul Companies, Inc. Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and The Matilda R. Wilson Fund. Transportation is provided by the nation's railroads including BNSF Railway, CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific Railroad.

In January of 2007, Artrain USA, *America's Hometown Art Museum*, **was awarded the National Award for Museum and Library Service, the federal government's highest honor for community service provided by a museum or library.** A nonprofit organization, Artrain USA's mission is to *enrich lives and build communities through the arts*. An art museum housed in vintage rail cars that travels via the nation's railroads, Artrain USA brings world class art exhibitions and art education programs to communities and their residents. Artrain USA delivers exceptional opportunities for learning, growth and art appreciation while encouraging the development of local cultural programs and organizations. Founded in 1971, Artrain USA's national headquarters are in Ann Arbor, MI. More than 3 million people have visited Artrain USA during 800 community visits across America. Communities as small as 300 and as large as 3 million residents have hosted Artrain USA.

Treat your out of town guests, family and friends to a memorable Thanksgiving holiday activity! For more information about the Oklahoma City tour contact Shoshana Wasserman at 405.239.5503 or visit www.aiccm.org. For information about Artrain USA visit www.ArtrainUSA.org or call 800.ART.1971.

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