

LISA LaRUE-BAKER

Artist/Native Modern • Culture-bearer

Cherokee Nation citizen, C0128319

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EXHIBITS

- Art for Art, Folly Theater/Buttonwood Gallery, juried group show, Kansas City, MO 2024
- Trail of Tears Art Show, juried group show, Tahlequah, OK April 2024
- Pop Goes the NDN, solo show, Nexlynx Gallery, Topeka, KS 2023
- Still Here, Still Native, juried/invited group show, Fayetteville, NC Art Guild, 2023
- Storytellers, juried/invited group show, Lagunas Art Gallery, Laguna, CA 2023
- Roar and Pour, Topeka Zoo, basket collaboration with Rudy the Orangutan, charity auction, 2023
- 52nd Annual Trail of Tears Art Show, juried show, Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, OK, 3rd Place winner – contemporary basketry
- Mapping Change, Invited group, Morris Gallery, Topeka, KS 2023
- Seasons, juried show, Morris Gallery, Topeka, KS 2023
- Mayor's Art Initiative, invited group show, Topeka, KS 2023
- Mobigraphy & Basketry, solo show, NOTO Vestibule, Topeka, KS 2019
- Tenacity, sholo show, Amused Gallery, Topeka, KS 2019
- Open Doors, solo show, The Bite, Muskogee, OK 2013
- Crosscut: A Visual Odyssey in Photography & Art, group show with Bo Bice and Mikel Estes, Cherokee Arts Center, Canton, GA 2013
- Open Doors, solo show, Forbidden, Los Angeles, CA 2012
- Various community exhibits in and around Cherokee Nation, 1998 – 2012

PERMANENT COLLECTION

- Installation design, Cherokee Heritage Center, Tahlequah, OK
- Installation design, John Hair Museum, Tahlequah, OK
- Basketry:
 - Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Muskogee, OK
 - Kanza Museum, Kaw Nation, Kaw City, OK
 - Alice C. Sabatini Gallery, Topeka, KS
 - Private collection: Jimmy Johnson, NASCAR driver

OTHER ARTS WORK:

- Cultural arts instructor:
 - Cherokee Nation 1997-2006
 - United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee 2006-2012
 - 785 Arts 2019-present

- Gallerist:
 - 785 Arts Gallery & Studio, Topeka, KS 2019-present

Facilitator:

- Mid-America Arts Alliance, 2022-23
- American Association of Tribal Libraries and Museums, 2024

Curator:

- John Hair Cultural Center & Museum, Tahlequah, OK
- Mayor's Art Initiative, Topeka, KS
- DoPiKa: A Land Acknowledgement, Alice C Sabatini Gallery, Topeka, KS
- Topeka Reflections, NOTO Arts Center, Topeka, KS
- Morris Gallery, Topeka, Kansas
- Mayor's Art Initiative, Topeka, Kansas

BIO:

Lisa LaRue-Baker is a multi-talented digital artist who seamlessly blends her personal photography with vintage images, infusing them with vibrant hues through hand-tinting techniques using watercolors.

Lisa is also a double wall basket maker and instructor who has been making baskets for over 25 years. Her work is on the contemporary side, using materials such as stainless steel, copper, silicone, and anything else 'weavable.' She always makes the basket traditional on the inside and contemporary on the outside, 'just like myself.'

Lisa is a Cherokee Nation citizen who currently lives in Topeka, Kansas and is a member of the Kansas City Cherokee Community. She was taught basketry skills by Sandy Long, Thelma Vann Forrest, and Anna Sixkiller. With work in the permanent collections of several museums and frequently shown in various art shows around the country, she is also the gallerist and owner of 785 Arts LLC, a Department of the Interior-listed Native American art gallery, the founder of the DoPiKa Project, and serves on several art organization boards. Her Cherokee family is from the Stilwell and Vian areas in Oklahoma. She worked for Cherokee Nation Cultural Resource Center as Literature Review Coordinator, where she assisted in language program development and basket classes. She was also involved in the development of the Cherokee Nation Word List, the Language Teacher Certification Program, and was certified as a Cherokee History instructor by the administration.

Artist Statement:

Education has always been important to me, but creativity is my passion. I believe that creativity serves as a powerful tool for educating others. Through my music, writing, photography, bohemian art, and traditional Cherokee arts, I strive to create pieces that not only resonate with the soul but also leave a lasting memory of history or a glimmer of hope for the future.

As a Native American artist, I embrace both the traditional art of my tribe and contemporary expressions across various genres. My work reflects the richness of all cultures, experiences, and aspirations, which is essential to the life of a contemporary Native artist. Indigenous art transcends the confines of an “Indian” theme; it emerges from our unique perspectives and embodies our traditional teachings. Art IS our culture; it permeates everything we do.

In my recent explorations, I have turned to found materials, foraging for basket-making supplies in the wild. This practice has opened my eyes to a troubling reality: the landscapes I once knew are now littered with trash and throwaways. This juxtaposition of natural beauty and human neglect informs my work, prompting a dialogue about sustainability, preservation, and the relationship between art and the environment. By incorporating these found materials into my art, I aim to transform discarded objects into meaningful expressions, challenging viewers to reconsider their impact on the world around them.

Being an artist is not just a personal endeavor; it is an essential part of being a culture-bearer. I am a Native artist crossing the boundaries into the non-Native art world, using my voice to advocate for a deeper understanding of our interconnectedness and the importance of nurturing both our cultural heritage and our environment.