



Through My Mother's Eyes featuring **Carolyn Bernard Young**



August 28 – October 23, 2015



Carolyn Bernard Young, an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is a talented potter. Born in Fort Worth, Texas, Carolyn now resides in Weatherford, Texas, where she owns Earth to Art Studio and Gallery.

Carolyn began her artistic training over twenty years ago when she enrolled in a ceramics class to relieve the stress of her job in the aerospace industry. For many years Carolyn spent a week each summer at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where she learned pottery techniques from highly skilled professionals. At her home in Texas, she spent time taking additional classes and practicing her craft daily. Following her retirement from the aerospace industry in 2009, Carolyn now works full-time as an artist. Carolyn also credits Dr. Ian Thompson of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for teaching her traditional methods of building vessels by hand and firing them in an open pit.

The first step in Carolyn's artistic process is to create a sketch of the envisioned piece. Carolyn then uses a potter's wheel to form her contemporary pottery. After the piece takes its final shape she then paints it with a black underglaze. Next she uses a sgraffito technique, meaning "to scratch," to carve totems, spirits, and patterns into the pottery. These designs express her deep respect for Native American culture and the Choctaw Nation. She then adds brightly colored glazes to create a unique element of surprise and whimsy. Finally, she fires each piece in an electric kiln. Using these techniques, Carolyn brings a modern voice to the clay while still honoring the traditions of her ancestors.

Carolyn's work has garnered multiple awards including: 2nd place in the three-dimensional works category at the 2013 Peach Festival, Weatherford, Texas; 2nd place in the three-dimensional works category at the 2013 Renaissance Art Show, Fort Worth, Texas; 2nd place in the pottery category at the 2014 Choctaw Indian Art Show, Tuskahoma, Oklahoma; and 3rd place in the contemporary pottery category at the 2015 Red Earth Festival, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Her pottery is included in the permanent collection of the Choctaw Nation Capitol Museum in Tuskahoma, Oklahoma.

The pieces in the exhibit may be purchased by contacting Carolyn Bernard Young directly at 817-269-5375, or through email at carolyn@earthtoart.com.

US Department of the Interior
Indian Arts and Crafts Board
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Oklahoma Sky, 2015
Pottery

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Gathering Bark for Medicine Tea, 2015
Pottery
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Running Free, 2015
Pottery
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Father Sky Home, 2015
Pottery
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Wild Heart, 2015
Pottery
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