



Berta Walker
GALLERY



PROVINCETOWN 400
1620-2020

BERTA WALKER GALLERY



Sky Power, The Offering. 2011,
oil on canvas, 36 x 48"

TWO EXHIBITIONS CELEBRATING PROVINCETOWN 400

Opening September 10

**Contemporary Cape Artists of Native
American Heritage**

&

UNITY

**Exploring Freedom and Democracy in
2020**

(Rotating art in this exhibition through Election Day)



Varujan
Boghosian,
Miss Freedom
2003,
Construction, 20
1/2 x 13 x 4"

Both exhibitions celebrate the history of Provincetown's role in offering safe harbor to the Pilgrims 400 year ago and continues today. The Pilgrims landed in what is now known as Provincetown, then occupied by the Wampanoags. Here, in 1620, the beginning of American Democracy was established through the creation of the Mayflower Compact, our first attempt at consensual government. Its goal was to act as a guide that everyone in the new colony would abide by the same laws. Today, The Mayflower Compact remains a basis for our self-governance.

Five weeks after writing the Mayflower Compact in Provincetown, the Pilgrims sailed on to Plymouth where they established their first Colony on lands that had earlier been occupied by the Wampanoag.

CONTEMPORARY CAPE ARTISTS OF NATIVE AMERICAN DESCENT

Nathan Balk-King (Lakota Nation) * Ride Hamilton (Cheyenne) * Deb Mell (Cherokee) * Sky Power (Cherokee) * Duane Slick (Meskwaki Nation of Iowa and Ho-Chunk Nation of Nebraska).

NOTE: This exhibition will include the original drawing made by Native American artist Duane Slick for this year's "Swim for Life". **A percentage of any sale in this exhibition will be donated to this, the 33rd year of the "Swim for Life", this year becoming a "virtual swim-in-place" season-long event culminating on September 12, 2020.**



Nathan Balk-King, "Timshel",
2020, bronze, 12 x 8 x 8"

NATHAN BALK-KING (Lakota Nation)

Balk-King is a year-round resident of Provincetown and a student at the Commonwealth Honors College at U Mass Amherst, majoring in Physics. I come from a family of artists, my grandmother is Bunny Pearlman, my mother Lise King is a filmmaker/photographer and my father Frank J. King is Lakota and a writer/painter. Throughout middle school and high school, I studied art at PAAM's youth programs and found out about Romolo's apprenticeship program nearing the end of my senior year. This sculpture was made as an apprentice to Romolo Del Deo.

"I started a group called Model United Nations Indigenous, and it is dedicated to making the Model UN program more available to Native youth. This summer I, with the help of my mother and my friend Lila Crank, created a free online Model UN program for Native high school students. For my work, I received the Diller Teen Award, which is a \$36k scholarship given to Jewish youth with projects like mine.

My project's website is MUNindigenous.com,

RIDE HAMILTON (Cheyenne)

Born in 1976, his mother is a renowned potter, Dora Tse-pe, a Tewa Native American born on the Zia Pueblo in 1939. Most of Ride's family, well known as ceramic artists, reside on the San Ildefonso Pueblo. He is also of French descent.

Ride Hamilton is a photographer from New Orleans who has collaborated with David Kaplan on photography for many of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival plays. Ride Hamilton's photography, is a rare example of utilitarian imagery treated with the sensitivity, insight and unique qualities transcending the documenting of actors in a play.

"I want the acting between the acting. The life between the life." Given his long braided hair, colorful exotic attire, including a skull for a belt buckle, and lots of fringe it was an easy assumption that he has Native American heritage," noted David Kaplan several years ago.



Installation view:
Ride Hamilton Performance collaboration of
"The Hotel Plays", Tennessee Williams Festival
David Kaplan & Ride Hamilton

DEB MELL (Cherokee)

My people trace their roots through their oral stories. Our history is very rarely written down, but has remained steadfast in its matrilineal lineage. Our people, our women have had strong native roots that have seen the horrors of the Trail of Tears, were expected to be left to die alongside the road and founded the Northern Band of the Cherokee in Southern Missouri/Northern Arkansas.

We are the River People. We believe in the power of the past and trust that our images and our words will tell stories of our histories to future generations. I am Northern Cherokee. I am Cherokee. I am woman. I am a storyteller. I am an Artist. I use the playfulness inherent in myths and legends as a means of turning personal frustrations and fantasies into artistic portrayals.



Deb Mell, "Stop Hiding", 2020,
oil on panel, 12 x 9"

SKY POWER (Cherokee)



Sky Power, Talking Leaves, #6, 2001,
oil on panel, 12 x 12"

The Cherokee way of seeing and interacting in the world acknowledges the interrelatedness of things and the existence of forces more powerful than human beings. There is a story about two Cherokee women having a conversation with birds while doing their laundry outdoors. I interpreted their communication as being telepathic within the languages that each species had access to. The Cherokee referred to the symbols in their alphabet as talking leaves.

My 'Talking Leaves' series represents unspoken communication, the foundation of abstract art. The carmine palette of these paintings is characteristic of fire, the central symbol of the Cherokee people, because of their belief that fire can see into the heart. Ikage is an Apache word for shield or protector. Traditionally, Native American men created individual shields using their personal power symbols to protect them in war. As a

woman, part Cherokee, existing in a different century, I created a series of 50 shields from 1999 - 2002, as an act of empowerment through the investigation of my ethnic origin. The lyrical iconography reflected in my symbols are reminiscent of musical notes and the Cherokee alphabet, representing my profession as a piano tuner, and my Native American roots.



Duane Slick, Coyote's Return, 2020,
acrylic, 14 x 11"

DUANE SLICK (Meskwaki Nation of Iowa and Ho-Chunk Nation of Nebraska)

As an indigenous artist, I am interested in the early tribal creation stories, where coyote is both trickster and fool, benevolent and witness. On this 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower in Provincetown, I was interested in the resilience of the trickster who arrives on the back of the turtle, another benevolent being that makes its home in the water and is mythically instrumental in creating the world.

Duane Slick was born in Waterloo, IA, and is of Native American descent, a member of the Meskwaki Nation of Iowa and his mother is from the Ho-Chunk Nation of Nebraska. Slick originally came to Provincetown as a Fine Art Work Center Fellow and has been returning regularly ever since. He is represented by Albert Merola Gallery.

Due to the restrictions caused by the 2020 worldwide pandemic, most exhibitions will be presented with easy viewing through Walker's Windows

(Our lights are always on for you.)

Click [HERE](#) to make an appointment or call 508-487-6411 or 941-350-7135

OPEN Wednesday-Saturday, 12-4 and as we can accommodate visitor needs

"Berta Walker's gallery mission is voiced in the motto that has guided her over the years, 'Presenting the History of American Art as seen through the Eyes of Provincetown'. She aims for nothing less than documenting the role that artists associated with Provincetown have played in the major movements in American art...making the past vital to the living artists she represents, replenishing the present with a curatorial finesse that is highly regarded."
Andre van der Wende, Provincetown Arts

Representing:

Donald Beal, Varujan Boghosian, Polly Burnell, Mike Carroll, Lucy Clark, Romolo Del Deo, Salvatore Del Deo, Joseph Diggs, Rob DuToit, Robert Henry, Grace Hopkins, Brenda Horowitz, Penelope Jencks, David Kaplan, Judyth Katz, Anne MacAdam, Danielle Mailer, Deb Mell, Erna Partoll, Sky Power, Blair Resika, Paul Resika, Laura Shabott, Peter Watts, Murray Zimiles

Frequent guests: Ed Giobbi, Susumu Kishihara, Dana McCannel, Jim Peters, John Thomas

Estates: Gilbert Franklin, Elspeth Halvorsen, Budd Hopkins, John Kearney, Gloria Nardin, Selina Trieff, Ione Gaul Walker, Nancy Whorf

Masters in Our Collections: Gerritt Beneker, Byron Browne, Oliver Chaffee, James Floyd Clymer, Jim Forsberg, Sue Fuller, Dorothy Lake Gregory, Marsden Hartley, Charles Heinz, Charles W. Hawthorne, Hans Hofmann, Edward Hopper, Peter Hunt, Karl Knaths, Blanche Lazzell, Lucy L'Engle, Herman Maril, Ross Moffett, Vollian Rann, Helen Sawyer, Carl Sprinchorn, Agnes Weinrich.



Berta Walker

GALLERY

HAROLD HAVEN BROWN (1869-1932)
Mayflower, Provincetown, 1620, Color Woodblock Print

208 Bradford Street Provincetown MA 02657

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Grace Hopkins, Director -- Berta Walker, Curator -- David Henry Perry, Curator