



Reflective Visions

Featuring

Gene “Ironman” Smith



Gene “Ironman” Smith, an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation, is an expert in the craft of metal art. He was born and raised in Sulphur, Oklahoma and currently resides in Norman, Oklahoma. His mother and father, Edwina Heminger (Oglala Lakota) and Clyde Smith (Choctaw Nation), encouraged him to use his artistic ability to honor their American Indian heritage. Gene especially took to heart a message from his mother: “Respect the ones that came before you, and the ones that paved the way to where you are today.”

In high school, Gene spent time experimenting with several mediums, and in 2016 he began his metal working journey. He spent time in commercial welding before transitioning into fine art. Gene feels a special connection to feathers and this is reflected in many of the designs that emerge from his artworks.

Memories of his mother’s stories led him to create his first life-size metal headdress, which he entitled “Traditional” in honor of her. Each headdress takes him over one hundred hours to complete. Gene heats the raw metal with a torch to forge it into shape, then he uses a grinding wheel to etch it with designs and details. Every sculpture Gene creates is unique, and no two pieces are alike. Gene feels his inspiration comes from visions given to him by those watching over him.

Previous awards and honors include: First Place in 3D sculpture at the 2016 Artesian Art Festival, Sulphur, Oklahoma; Celebrated Artist at the 2017 Norman May Fair, Norman, Oklahoma; First Place in Sculpture at the 2018 Red Earth Festival, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and First Place in Sculpture at the 2019 Red Earth Festival, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Gene’s art is collected by individuals as well as corporate clients and has been displayed at venues around Oklahoma, including The Corridor at Paseo, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Exhibit C, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; the Cherokee Heritage Center, Parkhill, Oklahoma; and The Firehouse Art Center, Norman, Oklahoma.

The artwork featured in the exhibition may be purchased by contacting Gene “Ironman” Smith directly by email at vette8491@hotmail.com.

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Pride

Sculpted Metal

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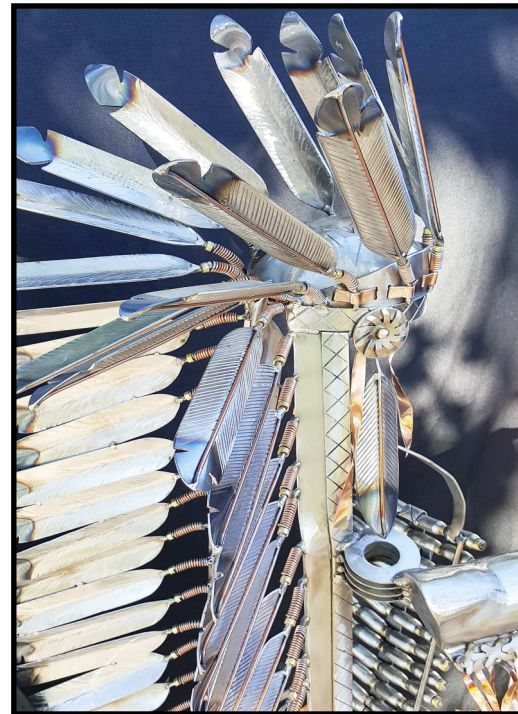


Raindance Beginning
Acrylic on Canvas
© 2019 Gene “Ironman” Smith

“Raindance is a War Horse that was created to be a symbolic icon and reminder of the battle against Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. We must not accept and overlook this issue, hoping it will go away. Raindance is charging into battle against those that would harm women. We must fight to address the causes and find solutions until the War is Won.”

Gene “Ironman” Smith

***Red Earth
War Pony***
Sculpted Metal
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“Ironman” Smith



Thunder
Sculpted Metal
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