

Art Omi Presents *Raven Halfmoon: Ancestors*, the
First Solo Institutional Exhibition of the Artist,
Opening March 19



Raven Halfmoon. *E-a'-ti-ti (Sisters)*, 2021 (detail). Stoneware, glaze, 38 x 25 x 63 in. (96.5 x 63.5 x 160 cm). Forge Project Collection, traditional lands of the Muh-he-con-ne-ok. Photo: Trayson Connor, Oklahoma Contemporary Arts. Photo courtesy of the artist & Kouri + Corrao Gallery, Santa Fe.

GHENT, NY, March 2022 — Art Omi is pleased to present *Raven Halfmoon: Ancestors*, the first solo institutional exhibition of Raven Halfmoon (b. 1991, Caddo Nation), from March 19 through June 12, 2022 in the Newmark Gallery. The installation will feature six recent large-scale ceramic sculptures, including several completed this year while in residence at the Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Arts in Helena, Montana. Halfmoon's monumental ceramic sculptures—some towering more than five-feet high—examine entanglements between past and present, sampling from an array of sources including graffiti, Caddo tattooing and mythology, and her own family history.



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In Halfmoon's work, multiple heads spring from the same clay base, and figures appear in formations of two, three, or more. Eschewing singular notions of being, Halfmoon's objects are multifaceted and plural, nodding to histories carried forward by many generations of Caddo people, as well as pointing to a distinctly contemporary moment. Exploring vessel as form and the gendered implications of the medium, Halfmoon's ceramics often examine legacies of matrilineal inheritance.

Starting with coil-rolling in the tradition of Caddo ceramics, Halfmoon embraces traditional as well as nontraditional modes of production. Through pushing and pulling, she manipulates hundreds of pounds of clay to unveil looming, figurative forms with a gestural looseness. Halfmoon utilizes contrasting colors throughout her work and often returns to a vivid red, which evokes the red dirt of Oklahoma, her home state, but also to violence—used in campaigns to raise awareness about missing and murdered Native women, girls, and two-spirited people in the United States and Canada.

A member of the Caddo Nation, Halfmoon was born and raised in Oklahoma, and has always been strongly connected to the arts and her heritage. While her introduction to clay was at the age of thirteen, she became deeply interested in the medium while pursuing a double major in Cultural Anthropology and Ceramics/Painting at the University of Arkansas. Through her research and coursework in Native Studies, she was able to dive deeper into the material culture of her ancestry and engage directly with ancient objects from the Caddo Nation. Studying Caddoan culture and art making traditions deeply informed her own practice, and she also draws from monumental artworks from around the world, including the colossal Easter Island mo'ai and Olmec heads.

Art Omi is grateful to the lenders to this exhibition: Forge Project, Kouri + Corrao Gallery, and Salon 94.

About Art Omi

Art Omi presents large-scale works in nature, as well as indoor exhibitions in a 1,500 square foot gallery. The Sculpture & Architecture Park currently offers more than 60 works by artists and architects on view. Art Omi has five distinct residency programs, and a thriving education program which serves people of all ages and abilities with contemporary art and ideas in a stimulating and dynamic community.

*For more information, high-resolution images, or interview requests,
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