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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

***Savages and Princesses: The Persistence of Native American Stereotypes
108|Contemporary, August 5-September 25, 2016***

Tulsa, OK-June 9th, 2016- Located in the Brady Arts District, 108|Contemporary is pleased to announce the opening of the group exhibition, *Savages and Princesses: The Persistence of Native American Stereotypes*. The opening will coincide with the First Friday Art Crawl on August 5th from 6-9 PM.

Composed of sixteen contemporary Native American artists from Oklahoma, this exhibition explores why stereotypes of Indigenous peoples are so ingrained and how they can be overcome. The artists approach this dialogue with humor and fresh perspectives. The artists who will be showing their work are:

Anita Fields (Osage-Muscogee), ceramic artist, Stillwater, OK
April Holder (Sac & Fox-Wichita-Tonkawa), mixed media artist, Shawnee, OK
Benjamin Harjo, Jr. (Absentee Shawnee-Seminole), painter, sculptor Oklahoma City, OK
Heidi BigKnife (Shawnee Tribe), jeweler, Tulsa, OK
Hoka Skenandore (Oneida-Oglala Lakota-Luiseño), mixed media artist, Shawnee, OK
Juanita Pahdopony (Comanche), sculptor, Lawton, OK
Karin Walkingstick (Cherokee Nation), ceramic artist, Claremore, OK
Kenny Glass (Wyandotte-Cherokee), textile artist, regalia maker, Tahlequah, OK
Kira Haren Poole (Caddo-Delaware), draftsperson, Oklahoma City, OK
Marcus Amerman (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), beadwork artist, Kooskia, ID
Matthew Bearden (Potawatomi-Kickapoo), mixed media artist, painter Tulsa, OK
Mel Cornshucker (United Keetoowah Band), ceramic artist, Tulsa, OK
Micah Wesley ((Muscogee-Kiowa), mixed media artist, Norman, OK

Shan Goshorn (Eastern Band Cherokee), photography, basket weaver, Tulsa, OK

Tom Farris (Otoe-Missouria-Cherokee), mixed media artist, Norman, OK

Zach Presley (Chickasaw), collage and digital artist, Durant, OK

"Savages and Princesses perfectly fits 108|Contemporary's mission to support Oklahoma's contemporary fine craft artists. From the beginning it has been important to us to support the contemporary expression of cultural traditions," said Executive Director, Kathy McRuiz.

This show is curated by Cherokee Nation artist and art writer, America Meredith. A graduate of both the San Francisco Art Institute and the University of Oklahoma, Meredith has curated many exhibitions featuring Native American artists and subject matter and uses Cherokee culture and language in her work. She also serves on the boards of the Wheelwright Museum and Cherokee Arts and Humanities Council and is the publishing editor of *First American Art Magazine*.

"Having America, a Native woman and celebrated artist, curate enforces the idea that this exhibition is seen through the eyes and created by the hands of Native American people", said McRuiz.

This exhibition is made possible in part through the generosity of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

108|Contemporary is a non-profit organization specializing in the organization of Oklahoma fine craft artists. Our mission is connecting both artists and the public to education, exhibitions, recognition, and communication to the arts. If you are interested in learning more about the exhibition, please visit the 108 Contemporary website at www.108contemporary.org

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