



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM of ART

News Release | For Immediate Release

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Benjamin Harjo Jr.: We Are a Landscape of All We Know
on view at the OSU Museum of Art July 10 – Dec 8, 2018

(STILLWATER, Okla., June 14, 2018) — Comprised of a selection of more than 30 rarely seen works on paper, prints, and sculpture, drawn from several private collections, this exhibition explores how Benjamin Harjo Jr. (Absentee Shawnee and Seminole) creates his place in the world. Through a connection to his own heritage and to the wider American and international aboriginal communities, Harjo generates an individual perspective that is rooted in the past, informed by the present, and looking to the future.

Before graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Oklahoma State University, Harjo was both self-trained and educated at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA). With a career now spanning more than 30 years, Harjo's artwork has been showcased in public collections and galleries across the nation. While a number of those exhibitions have celebrated his use of color, humor, and patterning, this exhibition examines the artist's multifaceted abstract and figurative work that engages memory, place, and family. Harjo's own brand of visual sovereignty evokes sacred connections that speak to the relationship between land, body, mind, and spirit, affirming the changing nature of culture, identity, tradition, and self-determination.

The exhibition amplifies several questions that Harjo explores in his work: How does one develop a sense of belonging? How is belonging experienced? What significance do ancestral lands, kinship systems, and creation stories hold for Harjo as a contemporary Native American? It is with these inquiries in mind that we can begin to explore how Harjo generates his place in the world through his work while providing an opportunity for us to reflect on our own.

Benjamin Harjo Jr.: We Are a Landscape of All We Know is curated by Cassidy Petrazzi. It is on view at the OSU Museum of Art from July 10 – Dec. 8, 2018. A public reception is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 4, from 5 to 7 pm. Learn more at museum.okstate.edu/harjo.

About the OSU Museum of Art

For more information about the OSU Museum of Art, visit museum.okstate.edu or call 405-744-2780. The museum is located at 720 S. Husband Street in downtown Stillwater. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm. Admission is free, thanks to generous support from the OSU Museum of Art Advocates.

Oklahoma State University is a modern land-grant university that prepares students for success. OSU is America's Brightest Orange. Through leadership and service, OSU is preparing students for a bright future and building a brighter world for all. As Oklahoma's only university with a statewide presence, OSU improves the lives of people in Oklahoma, the nation, and the world through integrated, high-quality teaching, research, and outreach. As America's Healthiest Campus, OSU is committed to the health and well-being of its students, employees and the community. OSU has more than 36,000 students across its five-campus system and more than 25,000 on its combined Stillwater and Tulsa campuses, with students from all 50 states and around 120 nations. Established in 1890, OSU has graduated around 255,000 students to serve the state of Oklahoma, the nation and the world.

