From Wounded Knee to Present
American Indian Art & Sovereignty

In 2003, during the first ever State of Indian Nations address, Tex Hall, President of the National Congress of American Indians, noted that American Indians chose survival when faced with destruction. He stated that “Now we seek not just to survive but to thrive.” His words capture the spirit reflected in the works exhibited in this art show about artistic expressions of American Indian identity and sovereignty. These photographs, paintings, and carvings reveal truths about contemporary American Indian existence and our current efforts to thrive. The three artists – Owen Luck, Micah McCarty (Makah), and Robert Peters (Wampanoag) – provide insight into the ways that cultural practices remain a deep thread through the daily lives of American Indians, whether we are protecting our sovereignty, feeding our families by harvesting traditional foods, or drumming an honor beat at a powwow. The dynamic and expressive pieces on display highlight the continued immersion of our people in the unique histories and traditions that make us who we are as American Indians in today’s world.

The show runs until Thursday, April 26. The Harbor Gallery (1st floor, McCormack Hall) is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

April 19, 4 p.m.: Roundtable with the Artists – 11th floor, Healey Library
April 19, 5:30 p.m.: Reception – Harbor Gallery
April 26, 5 p.m.: Closing Event – Poetry Night, Harbor Gallery

Roundtable, reception, and poetry night are open to the public.

About the Artists

**Owen Luck** is an American photographer known for his photography of Native American and First Nation Canadian life and history. In 1973 he documented the American Indian Movement liberation of Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. In 1975 the Menominee Warrior Society invited him to document their occupation of the abandoned Alexian Brothers Novitiate on their Wisconsin reservation. In recent decades, Mr. Luck has documented the lives and activities of many indigenous nations, including the Lakota; Makah of Neah Bay, Washington; Tlingit of Klawock, Alaska; and Haida of Haida Gwaii, formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands. The photographs on display in this show provide a retrospective of his career, from Wounded Knee to present.

**Micah McCarty** is the current Tribal Chairman of the Makah Nation, located at Cape Flattery, the most northwestern point of the continental United States. As a drum maker and woodcarver, Mr. McCarty draws his inspiration from traditional Makah imagery, privileges and rights passed on through his whaling family, and his people’s current efforts at reclaiming the sea. The pieces on display in this show highlight the Makah’s continued connection to the ocean and marine practices and traditions that define them as the People of the Cape.

**Robert Peters** is a Wampanoag artist, poet, and author. He published his first book, *Da Goodie Monsta*, in the fall of 2009 and currently sits on the board of directors for the North American Indian Center of Boston. A member of the prominent Peters family of Cape Cod, he is committed to the cultural, social, and political life of the Wampanoag community. Deeply interested in the oral traditions of both his Wampanoag and African American heritage, Mr. Peters works with youth and elders to preserve their history, energy, and authenticity through art. He is a fire keeper and a keeper of his people’s oral traditions. The paintings on display in this show are from a project titled “Thirteen Moons,” a collection that embraces the culture and sacred beliefs of the Wampanoag Nation.

For more information, please contact Josh Reid (josh.reid@umb.edu), Director of the Native American & Indigenous Studies Program at UMass Boston and Asst. Professor of History.