



PEABODY MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

PRESS RELEASE

REMIX
***Indigenous Identities
in the 21st Century***

What: New Exhibition

Exhibit Dates: April 5, 2008 – August 31, 2008

Where: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology,
Harvard University, 11 Divinity Ave. Cambridge. Harvard Square
T stop, #1 Bus, handicapped accessible. Information: 617-496-
1027



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(Cambridge, March 25, 2008) The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and Native Americans at Harvard College (NAHC) present a new exhibition ***REMIX: Indigenous Identities in the 21st Century***. On view at the Peabody Museum from April 5 through August 31, 2008.

“I’m a sheep in wolf’s clothing, a wolf in shepherd’s skin messaging through smoke signals, satellite and medicine,” Native American DJ and rapper Quese IMC comments on the recontextualization of Native American youth identity in the modern world. Through words, actions, and art, the youth of Native America today must find a balance between old and new; empowered by influences from within their own communities and the world outside, they have “remixed” their identities to reflect their unique cultural heritage. Modern Native American youth identity is rooted in the past, rather than buried by it. **REMIX** features the works of four visual artists— Doug Miles (San Carlos Apache), Ryan Red Corn (Osage), Courtney Leonard (Shinnecock), and Bunky Echo-Hawk (Pawnee and Yakama)—and rapper Quese IMC, who have embraced this ethos, transforming traditional materials, ideas and iconography into powerful contemporary art.

The Artists

Bunky Echo-Hawk (Pawnee/Yakama) As a "proACTIVE ARTist," Bunky Echo-Hawk uses his art to address issues facing Native American nations and to fund Native American businesses and non-profits. He is the co-founder of a non-profit group, NVISION, which challenges Native youth to develop leadership skills through multi-media and art. His art explores the tension between native identity and modern culture.

Courtney Leonard (Shinnecock) Leonard's current work explores memory and language through her personal narrative as a woman from the Shinnecock Indian Nation of Long Island, New York. She believes that tradition is not stagnant and that the past strengthens the present. Much of her work incorporates the old with the new. Leonard's art confronts the stereotypes and misappropriations of Indigenous identity by popular media.

Doug Miles (San Carlos Apache) Doug Miles grew up on the San Carlos Indian Reservation, home of Geronimo and the Apache nation. A social worker and a painter, his art fuses these two interests. Most famous for putting his images on skateboards, Miles uses a variety of media to convey his message to Native American youth, dispelling negative stereotypes and helping them come to grips with their heritage.

Ryan Red Corn (Osage) An Osage artist who spent his childhood on the Osage Reservation, Ryan Red Corn is active in his community promoting art exhibits and protests that highlight and explore the issues of Native American identity. He attended the University of Kansas and received a B.F.A in graphic design and uses those skills to create politically charged T-shirts with an unapologetic style crafted to shatter public perception of Native Americans. His company, Red Hand Media, is based in his Osage Community in Oklahoma.

Queese IMC (Pawnee/Seminole) Marcus "Queese" Frejo began rapping at an early age. Growing up listening with his brother to rap music, he was inspired by artists like Run DMC and Public Enemy. Soon he started to develop his own music and perform it at rap battles and concerts. Queese IMC has opened for artists such as Snoop Dogg, Tyrese, Petey Pablo, and Ludacris. He interviews Native Americans to bring their stories into his music and maintain an oral history of their lives and experiences. His music encourages youth to recover their native languages.

This exhibition was supported by a grant from the Office of the Provost, Harvard University.

IVY Native Council Conference

This exhibition is installed in conjunction with the Fifth Ivy Native Council Conference being held at Harvard University April 3–6, 2008. The conference will explore current day conceptions of “being Indian” and what effect “living in two worlds” has on Native American youth today. The primary goal of the conference is to facilitate discussions leading to productive collaborative efforts among INC student leaders across their respective various schools and disciplines, Native American program staff, local Native nation delegates, as well as Harvard Community members. (For conference information email IvyNativeCouncil2008@gmail.com)

The Curators

The exhibition was curated by Kelsey Leonard, Tanner Amdur-Clark, LeRenzo Tolbert-Malcom, and Caitlin Young, members of Native Americans at Harvard College on behalf of the Ivy Native Council in collaboration with the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Harvard University.

Native Americans At Harvard College

Native Americans at Harvard College (NAHC) seeks to provide social, intellectual and cultural activities for both Native students at Harvard and for other interested members of the Harvard community. NAHC works to educate the Harvard campus about Native issues and debunk popular misconceptions of Natives through our activities and events. Native Americans at Harvard College is the only Native American undergraduate club at Harvard. NAHC has existed under several names, and is one of the six oldest ethnic/cultural organizations at Harvard College.

Ivy Native Council

The Ivy Native Council (INC) is a student organization comprising Native American representatives from the Ivy League and numerous other institutions of higher learning. INC is an opportunity for Native American undergraduates and graduates in the Ivy League to network as well as to garner broad-based and consistent institutional support for all INC member student organizations across their diverse campuses. INC is dedicated to: raising awareness and discussing Native American issues in its collegiate and local communities; recognizing, supporting, and instituting culturally relevant curricula; establishing a support system for Native American students in Ivy universities; and providing organization members with information for scholarships, internships, and career opportunities. In collaboration with the Harvard University Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology as well as Native Americans at Harvard College this exhibition commemorates and celebrates the 5th Annual Ivy Native Council Conference, "REMIX: Indigenous Identities in the 21st Century." REMIX is installed in conjunction with the Fifth Ivy Native Council Conference being held at Harvard University, April 3–6, 2008. The conference will explore current day conceptions of "being Indian" and what effect "living in two worlds" has on Native American youth today. The primary goal of the conference is to facilitate discussions leading to productive collaborative efforts among INC student leaders across their respective various schools and disciplines, Native American program staff, local Native nation delegates, as well as Harvard Community members. (For conference information email IvyNativeCouncil2008@gmail.com)

About the Peabody Museum

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. It is home to superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum's photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, holds more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-19th century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

Location: *The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.*

Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM, 7 days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$9.00 for adults, \$7.00 for students and

seniors, \$6.00 for children, 3–18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The Museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 AM to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 PM to 5 PM (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. The Peabody Museum participates in the City Pass and WGBH programs. For more information call (617) 496-1027 or go online to: www.peabody.harvard.edu.

Media Contact: Pamela Gerardi, Director of External Affairs
Peabody Museum
11 Divinity Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel: (617) 496-0099; Fax: (617) 495-7535, gerardi@fas.harvard.edu