



DIANA FOLSOM

Diana Folsom, an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, was born and raised in California. She comes from quiet, hard-working people. Her father's family was part of the Choctaw third migration from Oklahoma to California and her mother's family moved from West Texas to California. She grew up in San Diego, went to graduate school in NYC, lived and worked in Los Angeles and recently moved to Oklahoma. She earned a BA in Art from San Diego State University and an MA in Creative Art - Painting from Hunter College – City University of New York. In addition to her artistic endeavors, she was on staff at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for 22 years and is now on staff at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

As a regularly exhibiting artist, highlights of her activities include: *Woman as River: Liquid Passages* at DoubleVision Gallery, Los Angeles; *As Dreams are Made On - A Tribute to William Shakespeare* with husband William F. Matthews at Lois Lambert Gallery, Bergamot Station, Los Angeles; and *Art from the Ashes* group exhibitions for the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens and Deukmejian Park, in Glendale, CA; as well as an artist residency at the Vermont Studio Center and a one-person exhibition at Gallery Zein Xenon in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Folsom has been associated with Korean artists through exhibitions at Gallery Western in Los Angeles and participation in the "Third International NamSong Invitational Art Show" at Seongnam Arts Center in Gyeonggi Do, Korea. She shares a kindred spirit with Korean artists who show a strong connection with nature and a boundless enthusiasm for the arts.

Since moving to Oklahoma, Folsom has been exploring her family heritage through study of the collections at the Gilcrease Museum and membership in the Southeast Indian Artist Association (SEIAA). As her new paintings evolve, iconography found in ancient southeastern pottery and ancient star maps are folded into layers of fluid color in a continuation of her painting methods. The evolution of Diana Folsom's artistic practice has been shaped around the connections between earth and sky, considered through the fluid handling of paint in abstracted landscapes. These paintings reflect a merging of ideas and iconography derived from ancient Choctaw heritage. Ancient symbols are painted with contemporary colors and media. Since moving to Oklahoma, a personal artistic goal has been to learn more about her Choctaw heritage through the practice of making art.

Ms. Folsom states: "The purpose of the night-sky star paintings is to celebrate the way our ancestors watched the ancient skies to track the seasons and guide their lives. The four-pointed symbol is ancient, yet feels modern and abstract. The number four is the most important number to our Choctaw people. I incorporate modern flow-painting techniques around the star symbols to indicate the billowing gases and dust seen throughout our dense, ancient Milky Way galaxy. "