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Artrain USA's *Native Views* National Tour Draws to a Close
Closing ceremony in Norman, OK on November 30

Ann Arbor, MI - After four years and tens of thousands of miles traveled, Artrain USA's National Tour of the *Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture* exhibition will open for the last time in Norman, Oklahoma this weekend. Artrain USA is in Norman and open to the public this weekend. Oklahoma artists Anita Fields, Diego Romero and Richard Ray Whitman are included in the exhibition. At its conclusion, the *Native Views* will have been viewed by more than 165,000 visitors during 95 community visits from Fairbanks, Alaska to Bonita Springs, Florida.

A ceremony to commemorate the conclusion of the four-year national tour of *Native Views* is planned for a November 30 at the 6 p.m. at the Santa Fe Depot in Norman. Artrain USA board members, *Native Views* curator Joanna Bigfeather and exhibition artists from across the country are coming to Norman for the ceremony. Hosted by the Norman Arts Council and coinciding with annual Norman Winterfest Art Walk 2007 the ceremony will feature singer Brent Greenwood (Ponca/Otoe), dancers Cricket Rhoads-Connywerdy (Caddo/Kiowa) and Kevin Connywerdy (Comanche/Kiowa) will perform ceremonial songs and dances. Russ Tall Chief, director of the Jacobson House, will have the honor of presenting a ceremonial shawl to Joanna Bigfeather (Western Cherokee and Mescalero Apache), honoring Bigfeather's role as curator of *Native Views*. The public and press are welcome to attend the ceremony. The exhibition will then be open for public viewing and pre-scheduled educational tours in Norman through Tuesday, December 4.

***Native Views* Ceremony Details:**

Friday, November 30, 2007
Reception 6:00 -8:00 PM
Ceremony/Remarks – 6:45 PM
Santa Fe Depot, 200 South Jones, Norman, OK

Launched in April 2004, *Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture* is a contemporary Native American art exhibition. The exhibition was selected as an *American Masterpiece* project by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2006. Guest curator Joanna Bigfeather selected 71 artworks by 54 Native American artists including Anita Fields, Harry Fonseca, Jason Lujan, Shelly Niro, Roxanne Swentzell, Kay Walkingstick and Steven Yazzie. The exhibition explores the influence of popular culture and the many commonalities shared by all Americans. Visitors discover the richness, complexity and breadth of contemporary Native American art while examining varying perspectives on society.

The *Native Views* exhibition and National Tour was supported in part by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Ford Foundation, Matilda R. Wilson Fund, The William Randolph Hearst Foundations, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation, Lone Pine Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, The St. Paul Companies, Inc. Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, 3M Corporation & Commercial Graphics Division, DTE Energy Foundation, Hobbs + Black Associates, Inc., Integrated Architects, The Meadows Foundation, the National Indian Gaming Association, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts among many others. Transportation for Artrain USA during the National Tour was provided by BNSF Railway, CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific Railroad and numerous short line railroad companies.

Traveling to communities across the United States, Artrain USA is “America’s Hometown Art Museum.” A nonprofit organization, Artrain USA’s mission is to ***enrich lives and build communities through the arts***. Artrain USA received the 2006 *National Service Award for Museums* by the Institute of Museum and Library Service. Founded in 1971, Artrain USA’s national headquarters are in Ann Arbor, MI. More than 3.2 million people have visited Artrain USA during more than 845 community visits across the nation.

For more information or to request interviews with Joanna Bigfeather or *Native Views* exhibition artists, please call: 734-747-8300 or visit www.artrainusa.org. Photos are available for download.