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## **Celebrating the Painter of the Seminoles A Retrospective of the Barefoot Artist, Guy LaBree**

### **Guy LaBree: Painted Stories of the Seminoles**

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum will hold a reception for the opening of the exhibition, “Guy LaBree: Painted Stories of the Seminoles”. This exhibition will feature oil paintings and giclées created by the Barefoot Artist, as he was often known. These paintings will cover a range of themes from wildlife to metaphysical to history. It will include, of course, many of his Seminole themed paintings.

Guy was often considered the preeminent painter of the Seminoles. Growing up in Dania, FL he went to school and formed life-long friendship with several Seminole children. As Guy grew more interested in oil painting and began to develop his career he would occasionally use his experiences with Seminole culture as the basis for his paintings. Seminole friends would sometimes correct elements within the paintings, which deepened Guy’s understanding of the culture. Ultimately he was trusted by many Seminole Tribal Members to tell their story honestly and with tact.

Guy received many honors and exhibitions of his work within his lifetime. He was chosen by Tribal Member Betty Mae Jumper to illustrate her book, *The Legends of the Seminoles*. He received the Florida Folk Heritage award in 2014, having been nominated by three Tribal members: Chairman Billie, Rita Youngman, and Priscilla Sayan. He was also honored by the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian when his painting of Sonny Billie’s interpretation of the

Clan Genesis and Exodus was featured in the Seminole exhibit. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum continues to honor him by creating a retrospective in our Selections from the Collections gallery. The exhibition will be open from June 13<sup>th</sup> – November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### **About the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum**

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is owned and operated by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Situated in the Everglades on a 66-acre cypress dome on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservations, the Museum offers more than 5,000 square feet of gallery space. Exhibits feature rare artifacts and lifelike dioramas that depict Seminole life at

the turn of the century. In 2009, the Museum became the first tribally governed museum to be accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., the museum located 18 miles north of Interstate 75 at Exit 49. For more information, visit [www.ahthiki.com](http://www.ahthiki.com) or call 877-902-1113.