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## **Museum Reopening Celebration to feature: Seminole Spirit The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Presents Russell James' Critically Acclaimed Exhibition**

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, National Indian Day, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum will re-open its doors with a big celebration after a brief six week closure for interior renovations. The event will take place from 10am-4pm, and the Museum will be open normal business hours from 9am-5pm. Come join us for guided gallery and boardwalk tours, traditional food samples, storytelling, cow whip demonstrations, and a birds of prey demonstration. Please call ahead for the exact time for each event. The highlight of the reopening celebration will be a new temporary exhibit featuring selections from Russell James' critically acclaimed New York exhibition, **Seminole Spirit**, in the Mosaic Community Art gallery. In 2012, with the blessing of Chairman James E. Billie, Russell James embarked on a two-year exploration and artistic interpretation of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Through the world renowned Nomad Two Worlds initiative he founded for artistic and cultural collaborations, James was granted privileged access to Seminole lands, peoples, cultural sites and traditions. Working collaboratively with the Seminole Tribe of Florida's leadership and with several tribal members, this acclaimed photographer captures the essence of Seminole culture – a culture rooted in the Everglades with strong ties to its past while looking to the future. This exhibition will be open until November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.

The main exhibition will feature three large prints. During the opening on September 25<sup>th</sup>, the short film, *Seminole Spirit*, will be shown in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Theatre once every hour. Join us at 1pm for a special talk with the artist, Russell James.

Additionally, a larger special installation of the exhibition, featuring more of Russell James' prints from the *Seminole Spirit* exhibition at the annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) from November 6<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Again, the museum will feature the film, *Seminole Spirit*, in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Theater once every hour.

*Seminole Spirit* offers an unprecedented look into the world of the Seminoles as seen through the lens of Russell James. The 'Unconquered 2015' photograph which forms the centerpiece of the exhibit presents a strong statement of tribal identity, sovereignty, and connectivity to the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*"The Seminole Tribe of Florida are the most progressive and determined group of people I have ever met; their history of struggle, reinvention and adaptation is one of the greatest untold stories I have encountered. I believe their story deserves to be a source of global inspiration."*

-Russell James

### **About Russell James / Nomad Two Worlds**

Internationally renowned photographer Russell James' strongly idiosyncratic style is heavily influenced by the light, shape, and form of the stunning landscapes that surrounded him growing up in Western Australia. James has used this natural inspiration to create diverse fine art and photography collections

that include striking portraits, landscapes, and explorations of ancient and modern culture. His collections have been exhibited around the world including Tokyo, Berlin, Stockholm, Sydney, New York, Los Angeles, and Aspen. His fashion spreads and celebrity portraits have appeared in and on the covers of Vogue and a vast array of international art, fashion and photography journals, and teNeues Publications has published five fine-art books on James' solo works. In 2009 he joined the prestigious ranks of Irving Penn and Helmut Newton as a resident artist of CAMERA WORK, the world's leading gallery for contemporary photography and vintage master works, based in Berlin, Germany.

James' fine art collections are represented world-wide by Nomad Two Worlds Gallery, USA.

### **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 Reservation, 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 Association of Museums. Open seven days a week from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m., the museum is 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.