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Ethan Brown Pamunkey

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INDIGENOUS APPALACHIA

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Ethan Brown *Pamunkey*



“I take an organic, intuitive approach to creating my artwork, exploring both my personal mythology as well as my cultural Pamunkey heritage through a mixture of traditional and contemporary techniques and materials. In this way, creation has been a way for me to personally connect with identity and explore my community’s past, present, and future, and in turn, these stories and experiences are reflected in the finished products, resulting in pieces that show different aspects of culture and history while simultaneously existing in a unique world of their own visual aesthetics and symbols. I often like to use gourds as a medium for artwork. Though my artistic techniques are contemporary, the gourds themselves feel ancient when working.”

A Virginia artist working in multiple mediums including gourd art, oil painting, sculpture, and filmmaking, Ethan is a Pamunkey Tribal Citizen and resident of the Pamunkey Indian Reservation in King William, VA.

A self-taught artist, his work is inspired by Pamunkey history and culture, Virginia’s flora and fauna, dreams, intuition, and spirituality. His commissions include: the Big Ideas Company in London, England; the King William I Historical Museum; and the Chesapeake Bay National Parks, among others. In 2018 his oil painting titled “Walter Bradby” was purchased by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. A filmmaker, Ethan recently co-directed the experimental short film, “Tsenacommacah” (2020), as well as contributed additional photography to the EMMY-nominated short documentary, “Connecting Currents - Pamunkey River: Lifeblood of our People” (2020).



Clockwise Left to Right:
Huskanaw, 2021
Four Frogs, 2021
Water Carriers, 2021
Three Sisters, 2020

All have wood-burn and incorporate ink dye, oil stain, and/or acrylic paint.



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Snap this QR code
to read more about
this artist.

