

Donald Vann: Austin, Texas

Cherokee

Watercolor, Prints



Vann combines his love for art and his Cherokee heritage into moving watercolor images that speak of the Indian way of life, drawing his greatest inspiration from the earth, sky, and rhythms of nature. Vann is recognized for his depiction of the haunting images of his people's heritage, as shown in his portrayal of the Trail of Tears.

Donald Vann began his pursuit of art at the age of fourteen outside Stillwell, Oklahoma, his boyhood

home. When he wasn't camping with his grandfather or hunting in the woods, he was painting. Donald remembers "I didn't have any real art supplies back then, so I made my own. For paint brushes I would cut the hair off my dog's tail and tie it to the end of a stick".

The Cherokee National Historical Society has proclaimed Vann as "one of the best known Indian artists working in this century" and presented him with their Grand Award for his watercolor, *Leaving the Memories*. Vann has been honored by the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of the American Indian with their top award for his painting *The Departure*. He has also won first place ribbons in juried competitions at the Wichita Indian Art Market 2000, 1999 Kituwah Fine Arts Show, 1999 Jackson Hole Celebration, Oklahoma's Red Earth Exhibit, the Colorado Indian Market, and National American Indian Arts Exposition.

