

# AMERICANS

**Join us for insider perspectives in a conversation with the curators of *Americans* and the director of the National Museum of the American Indian.**

*Americans* is the museum's bold new exhibition that explores how American Indians have shaped U.S. history, national consciousness, and contemporary experience. The exhibition opens on January 18, 2018, and will be available for viewing during regular museum hours on the day of the conversation.

**American Indian images, names, and stories infuse American life.** The images are everywhere, from the Land O'Lakes butter maiden to the Cleveland Indians' mascot. American Indian names are everywhere too, from state, city, and street names to the Tomahawk missile. And the familiar historical events of Pocahontas's life, the Trail of Tears, and the Battle of Little Bighorn remain reference

points in everyday conversations. This exhibition offers a revelatory way to understand the pervasive imagery of American Indians that surrounds 21st century Americans. The exhibition also provides evidence of a surprising, profound, and deeply entangled history.

Curators Paul Chaat Smith (Comanche) and Cécile Ganteaume, and National Museum of the American Indian director Kevin Gover (Pawnee) will offer their insight on the creation of this provocative exhibition in a conversation moderated by Gerald McMaster (Plains Cree/Member of the Siksika First Nation).

A book signing for *Officially Indian: Symbols That Define the United States*, the notable book by Cécile Ganteaume that accompanies the exhibition, will follow.

## **A Conversation About Americans**

Thursday, January 18, 2018 ■ 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

National Museum of the American Indian  
Rasmuson Theater  
4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

This event is free but registration is required, please RSVP: [NMAI-SSP@si.edu](mailto:NMAI-SSP@si.edu)

Live webcast at: <http://nmai.si.edu/multimedia/webcasts>



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of the American Indian*

This Indian figure adorns the front fender of a 1948 Indian Chief motorcycle, on loan to the NMAI courtesy of the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, Birmingham, Ala.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBER VINTAGE MOTORSPORTS MUSEUM, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.



# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

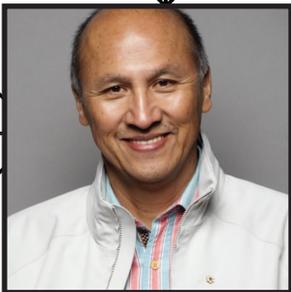
## A Conversation About *Americans*



**CÉCILE R. GANTEAUME** is an associate curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. She is co-curator of the *Americans* exhibition and the author of *Officially Indian: Symbols That Define the United States* (2017), the book published in association with the exhibition. Before joining the museum's staff in 1990, she worked for the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation in New York. She is the curator of the acclaimed exhibition *An Infinity of Nations: Art and History in the Collections of the National Museum of the American Indian*, on view at the museum's New York location, and is the general editor of the book of the same title. She has conducted fieldwork among the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Mescalero Apache Tribe and the Blackfoot Nation. She is a recipient of a 2011 Smithsonian Secretary's Research Prize. PHOTO BY R. A. WHITESIDE



**KEVIN GOVER** (Pawnee), director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, has guided the museum through the opening of several critically acclaimed exhibitions and major initiatives since he began as director in 2007. Gover served as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior from 1997 to 2000 under President Bill Clinton where he won praise for his efforts to rebuild long-neglected Indian schools and expand tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs police forces throughout the country. His tenure as Assistant Secretary is perhaps best-known for his apology to Native American people for the historical conduct of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. After leaving office in 2000, Gover practiced law at Steptoe & Johnson LLP in Washington. In 2003, he joined the faculty at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University and served on the faculty of the university's Indian Legal Program, one of the largest such programs in the country. PHOTO: SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



**GERALD MCMASTER** (Plains Cree/Member of the Siksika First Nation) is a curator, artist, author, and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Visual Culture and Curatorial Practice at OCAD University. McMaster has worked at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, and the Art Gallery of Ontario. Some of the exhibitions he has curated include: *In the Shadow of the Sun* (1989), *Indigena* (1992), *Plains Indian Drawings* (1996), *Reservation X* (1998), *First American Art* (2004), *New Tribe/New York* (2005), *Inuit Modern* (2011), and *Before and After the Horizon* (2014). McMaster has curated two international biennales: he was Canadian commissioner to the Biennale di Venezia (1995) and one of the Artistic Directors of the 18th Biennale of Sydney. His awards and recognitions include the 2001 ICOM-Canada Prize for contributions to national and international museology, 2005 National Aboriginal Achievement Award, and Officer of the Order of Canada. PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN KRIETE



**PAUL CHAAT SMITH** (Comanche), lead curator of the museum's *Americans* exhibition, is an author, essayist, and associate curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. His work focuses on the contemporary landscape of American Indian politics and culture. Smith joined the museum staff in 2001. His exhibitions include James Luna's *Emendatio* at the 2005 Venice Biennale, and *Fritz Scholder: Indian/Not Indian* and *Brian Jungen: Strange Comfort* at the National Museum of the American Indian. Smith is the author (with Robert Warrior) of *Like a Hurricane: The Indian Movement from Alcatraz to Wounded Knee* (1996) and *Everything You Know about Indians Is Wrong* (2009). In 2005, Art Papers named Smith one of the 25 most respected contemporary art curators working today. In 2017, he was selected to deliver the Eleventh Distinguished Critic Lecture by the Association of International Art Critics—USA. Smith's exhibitions and essays have explored the work of Richard Ray Whitman, Baco Ohama, Faye HeavyShield, Maggie Michael, Erica Lord, and Kent Monkman. PHOTO COURTESY OF NMAI PHOTO SERVICES