

Gene “Ironman” Smith

Tribal Affiliation: Choctaw, Oglala Lakota

Gene Smith, an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was born and raised in Sulphur, Oklahoma and currently resides in Norman, Oklahoma. His mother and father encouraged him to use his artistic ability to honor their American Indian heritage. Gene especially took to heart a message from his mother: “Respect the ones that came before you, and the ones that paved the way to where you are today.” In high school, Gene spent time experimenting with several mediums, and in 2016 he began his metal working journey. He spent time in commercial welding before transitioning into fine art. Gene feels a special connection to feathers and this is reflected in many of the designs that emerge from his artworks. Gene heats the raw metal with a torch to forge it into shape, then he uses a grinding wheel to etch it with designs and details. Every sculpture Gene creates is unique, and no two pieces are alike.



“Harmony on the Plains” by Gene Smith