



## MOHAWK OF THE ADIRONDACKS

**For Immediate Release: August 6, 2012**

### **ART EXHIBIT FEATURING SIX MOHAWK ARTISTS SHOWING STRENGTH OF THEIR TIES TO THE ADIRONDACKS**

**Opening Reception: 5-8pm, Friday, September 21, 2012**

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The Windows Gallery of the Tahawus Lodge Center, Au Sable Forks, is proud to present an exhibit that is truly the first of its kind in this Adirondack area. The "Mohawk of the Adirondacks" art exhibit is designed to capture Mohawk history, art and culture, both past and in the present. The Mohawk Nation or Kanienkehaka traditional homeland extended through parts of New York from the Mohawk River to the mountains of Vermont and southern Quebec. The name "Adirondacks" is an Anglicized version of the Mohawk *ratirontaks*, meaning "they eat bark." Mohawk remain a thriving, creative nation with art and crafts that are inspired by their unique history and tradition.

Six artists from Kahnawake, Quebec, and Akwesasne, New York, are featured: Towanna Miller, Ross Montour, Star Horn, Cheyanne Doxtador, Natasha Smoke Santiago and Barbara Little Bear. The painting and drawings utilize mixed media of acrylic, oils, charcoal and natural earth materials. Traditional pots, carved soapstone and bone antlers, demonstrate the adaptation of products from the environment. Jewelry and beadwork on *regalia* (distinctive traditional clothing) and *gustowas* (head pieces) show the vibrant colors derived from that same environment.

In addition, a presentation of traditional Mohawk artifacts will allow the viewers to learn about utilitarian products that were used in everyday life and for ceremonies. Included are cradleboards, corn pounder, horn and turtle rattles, and birchbark, sweetgrass and quill baskets.

The exhibit will occur between September 21 – October 12, 2012 at Tahawus Lodge Center for Culture and Community and is located at 14234 NYS Route 9N, Au Sable Forks, New York 12912. The Gallery is open Thursdays to Sundays 1-4 p.m. and by appointment, 518-647-2106.

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**The Tahawus Lodge Center** is the new art gallery and center on Main Street in Au Sable Forks, serving the Ausable Valley region with cultural and education activities and outreach, and especially where these concern stewardship for the environment, and enhance the quality of life for the community. Contact: [Tahawus@verizon.net](mailto:Tahawus@verizon.net). 646-734-7151, [www.tahawuslodgecenter.org](http://www.tahawuslodgecenter.org),

TLC's programs are made possible in part by Casella Waste Systems, Community Bank, the Honeybee Community Fund, Stewarts Shops, Placid Productions, Adirondack Arts in Education Partnership LCB program, and an Arts Council for the Northern Adirondacks CAP grant supported by the Essex County Board of Supervisors.