



Biography:

Weeya Calif, an enrolled citizen of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama, embodies a lifelong immersion in the arts. From her early days crafting backdrops for church productions, she has emerged as a trailblazing figure, notably as the first Native American artist showcased in the Capital One Gallery in D.C. Her impactful work, such as "The Smoke Dancers," showcased at The National Congress of American Indians Conference, resonates deeply. As an art educator, she imparts her passion to over 600 students annually, garnering accolades like the Teacher of Distinction and the Golden Apple Award. Embracing innovation, she pioneers digital art education initiatives, enriching both Native and non-Native communities.

For more information: <https://weeyacalif.com/>

Artwork Description:

Mother and Child

My art is a testament to my journey of reconciliation and self-discovery, stemming from a deep rift with my heritage and mother. Through courageous dialogue initiated by her, I embarked on a path of healing and understanding. I realized the importance of reclaiming my ancestry, a hidden tapestry that bridged our divide. With my mother's gentle guidance, ancestral truths emerged, binding us in shared history. Each stroke, each color, echoes the profound transformation within, as I unravel the threads of secrecy and embrace our lineage openly. My art is not just a reflection but a celebration of newfound connection and healing.