

## Raymond Nordwall Cover Artwork: Cree Dancer

Raymond Nordwall was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma in 1965. He is Pawnee, Cherokee and Ojibwe Indian. He studied art with Johnny Tiger, Jr., Dick West, Adam Fortunate Eagle, and Frank Howell. He attended Oklahoma State University, Bacone College and the Institute of American Indian Arts.

Nordwall began showing his work in galleries at the age of twelve. While he was young he emulated the Oklahoma "traditional" style of painting. After moving to Santa Fe and studying the masters' works in Europe, his style changed. Nordwall has worked in many different mediums, including oil, acrylic, mixed media, monotype, etching and watercolor.

"When you discover something in one medium, then it carries over to other mediums and all of your different approaches to painting grow, change and evolve." Most recently, Nordwall's work has been influenced by the Impressionists, Cubists, Asian art, and even pop art in his mixed media works. Nordwall has exhibited in galleries across the

U.S. and Europe including over 30 one-man shows.

In 1999 Raymond and his wife Gina opened Nordwall Gallery on Santa Fe's historical Canyon Road. "Through my art, I want to inspire people to learn more about the Native cultures and their appreciation of nature," said Nordwall. "When I'm in a beautiful place, I can't help to think about the Creator, and what He has given to us." ♣



Raymond Nordwall can be reached by calling Nordwall Gallery & Studio at (505) 988-5057. To view more of his artwork, visit [www.nordwallart.com](http://www.nordwallart.com)

## KELLI BRUER – JULY'S EXTRAORDINARY EMPLOYEE



Kelli Bruer

Indian Gaming magazine has named Kelli Bruer Extraordinary Employee for the month of July 2010. Kelli is Public Relations Manager for the Cherokee Nation Entertainment (CNE), overseeing all external communications and corporate communications for the company, including all the casino operations, retail businesses, tourism, as well as all the external

public communications and media relations. "This job has turned into the opportunity of a lifetime," she said. "It's been a huge experience to work with CNE and a great opportunity to cover PR on a full-time basis."

An enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, Kelli had a background in marketing and public relations, but was looking to expand her PR experience when she was offered a position with CNE three and a half years ago. "I've learned more about my heritage and Cherokee history that I probably never would have been exposed to had I not signed on with the company," she said. "It's also a tremendous feeling knowing that we're sharing a good word about the Cherokee Nation and educating people about CNE."

Kelli is a self-proclaimed people person, which ties in very nicely with her role at CNE. "I've been able to cultivate

relationships and friendships not just with my internal customers or those at our property, but also with local, regional and national media," she said. "There's a real sense of accomplishment when you can build a relationship and help someone out." With so many ongoing changes in the industry, staying informed of trends and information can be daunting. "I can be a really good resource for those who need to stay informed, which is a great sense of accomplishment for me."

Kelli also enjoys keeping everyone informed about the Cherokee Nation. "It's not only been rewarding, but a vital service to educate Oklahomans about the Nation, about gaming and how instrumental it is to the economy," she said. Kelli not only handles PR on the casino side, but also on the historical and cultural sides. She helps inform the media and public about the several building restoration projects the Nation has undertaken, as well as the cultural tours the Cherokee Nation hosts. "It is just beyond my dreams to have people come to the Cherokee Nation and experience our culture like this." ♣

If you would like to nominate an employee or co-worker, send an email to [editor@indiangaming.com](mailto:editor@indiangaming.com) or fax to (509) 891-0580. Be sure to describe your nominee and why you believe he or she should be chosen. The Extraordinary Employee of the Month will receive an engraved plaque in appreciation of their service to the industry.