

# 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 the 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.

