



***Damen Washington - Cherokee***

20 x 30 inches

Tintype

NFS

## Chuck Davis

Website: [ArkansasMomentos.com](http://ArkansasMomentos.com)

Damen Washington (Fayetteville, AR) - Cherokee Videographer and father from Tahlequah, OK.

### Bio

As an artist, Chuck Davis critically observes Ozark history and the lands once described as Indian Territory. Since moving to Arkansas more than a decade ago, his subjects traverse intergenerational tensions of both new and native residents.

### Artist Statement

Relocation, remembrance and restitution are reflected in my work with Indigenous and Native people. Erasure of culture impacts Native Americans, perhaps more than any other race, creating confusion and dislocating identity.

"The Wheel" is the name of a project in progress, offering voice and witness to native heritage, historically transient through forced relocation. As a platform for restoring identity, "The Wheel" examines portraits and momentos where Native or First Nation affiliation may be difficult to affirm through oral tradition, historical record or DNA search.

In its best moments, the project helps restore our relationship with the soil, and reflects on the stewardship for the land we all share. Bestowing respect upon all people, the project engages both native lineage and conversations about race.