

## Raymond Nordwall Cover Artwork: *Reflections of an Indian Summer*

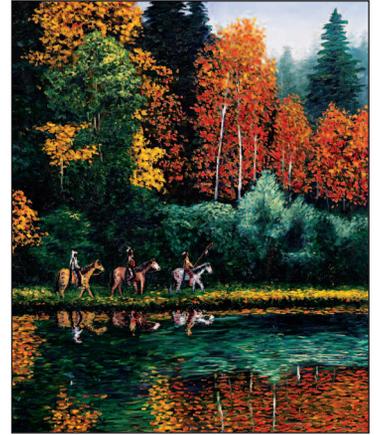
Raymond Nordwall was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma in 1965. He is Pawnee, Cherokee and Ojibwe Indian. He studied art with Johnny Tiger, Jr., Dick West, Adam Fortunate Eagle, and Frank Howell. He attended Oklahoma State University, Bacone College and the Institute of American Indian Arts.

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)

## KERRI POLLARD – SEPTEMBER'S EXTRAORDINARY EMPLOYEE



Keri Pollard

*Indian Gaming* magazine has named Keri Pollard Extraordinary Employee for the month of September 2011. Keri is a Valet Attendant at Spa Resort Casino in Palm Springs, CA, where she has been employed for the past year.

Keri has quickly gained recognition for her stellar performance in customer service, always striving to make each guest feel special. "She welcomes our guests as if they were

her next-door neighbors coming over for dinner," said Julius Kazen, Director of Hotel Operations. "She has a natural talent for amazing guest service, and that is why she has been recognized so early in her career with Spa Resort Casino."

Keri describes herself as a people person. "I've been in the people business for over fifteen years and I love it," she said. "I like connecting with our guests. They're the reason we're here every day." In her position, Keri welcomes guests as they arrive, helps with their luggage, and helps escort them from the hotel to the casino. She also gets to know many of the hotel's guests by first name. "It's almost like a family, knowing what games they like and what's going on in life. I thank them for choosing our casino."

Keri's genuinely outgoing demeanor on the job recently earned her recognition at the eleventh annual Best of the Best Golden Palm Awards, which recognizes outstanding performance in the city's lodging, attractions, retail venues and restaurants. "Winning this event was a huge honor for me," she said. "It was an honor to be nominated and recognized for what I do day in and day out." Kerri won the award for Lodging Front of the House (51 rooms or more).

Keri also enjoys working for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, which she says really cares about its employees. "In the valet department, they provide us not only with water, but with a sports drink," she said. "They do a little more than what is expected, and that's what I enjoy." When tribal council members and executives, such as Richard Milanovich, Chairman of the Agua Caliente Band, visit the property, they engage the employees to see how they're doing. "They don't just come in and expect me to park their cars. They talk to us and I just think that's awesome." ♣

*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.*