

Wolf Clan – Cherokee Indian Nation (2016)

By Walt Wright

The symbol for the Wolf clan of the Cherokee Indian Nation is depicted in this small 6x6 acrylic painting. Using an orange tinted copper color outlining the symbol against the turquoise blue background brings the image in line with the artist color wheel. The subject is well balanced on the canvas which has a crackled turquoise background.

The wolf clan is one of the major clans within the Cherokee nation. Although in this painting I have modified the symbol slightly. Normally in most Indian animal symbols the eyes are not represented. I've also slightly altered the shape to make it more balanced and dynamic in appearance. My respect and admiration for the Cherokee Indian nation is great and I always feel a sense of honor when painting anything related to them.

A Cherokee tale tells the story of the dog and the wolf. Originally, Dog lived on the mountain, and Wolf lived beside the fire. When winter came, though, Dog got cold, so he came down and sent Wolf away from the fire. Wolf went to the mountains, and found that he liked it there. Wolf prospered in the mountains, and formed a clan of his own, while Dog stayed by the fire with the people. Eventually, the people killed Wolf, but his brothers came down and took revenge. Ever since then, Dog has been man's faithful companion, but the people are wise enough not to hunt Wolf anymore.

