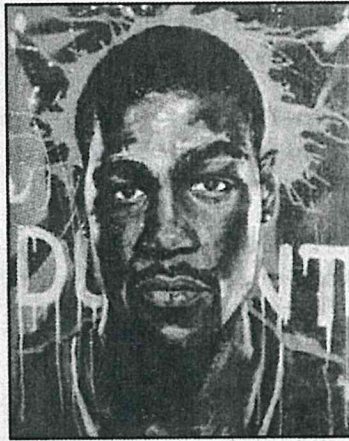


## Peterson's art exhibited at CT Heritage Center

The artwork of Lawton artist Robert Peterson is currently on exhibit at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center through Aug. 31.

Peterson's story is one of tragedy to triumph and has set a standard for how talent breaks through whatever limitations life may bring. His career as an artist began only 12 months ago.

Peterson finished his first painting on the day he was told that major surgery was required



Peterson's painting of Kevin Durant



Robert Peterson

to improve his quality of life. He left the doctor's office that day and purchased a \$6 paint set and a \$7 double canvas on his way out of the doors of Comanche County Memorial Hospital in Lawton.

It was through painting that he discovered a new appreciation for life. Robert has always said, "believe in yourself enough and eventually others will, too." This is becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy for the young Oklahoma artist as people everywhere are starting to recognize his talent.

A Goodyear employee, Robert has been sketching his entire life. He drew a portrait for his first celebrity in February of last year. As his sketches became more popular, prospective high-profile clients were asking for paintings.

He indicated that he didn't even consider painting until a recent health scare inspired him to use his work to leave something for his family.

"I try to connect to the canvas and the picture," Peterson said. "I want to bring life to the canvas. I want people to see how I see it in my head. I want it to be full of color. I don't want it to be too natural. I want it to be different, alive, something that captures your attention."

Peterson said he'll never forget when Robert I. Sparks, who discovered Andy Warhol, purchased four of his paintings at a recent show. For a man who seems to have the world on a string, it's the simplest things in life that he cherishes the most. Honing his craft, Robert continues to paint and draw daily.