ALLAN HOUSER:
A LIFE IN ART
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June 10 - September 13, 1992

This summer, The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is pleased to present a major retrospective of Allan Houser's sculpture, paintings and works on paper. Houser is one of America's foremost sculptors and a leader in contemporary Native American art.

Houser's works range from representational figures based on themes from his heritage, to purely abstract forms which suggest the human figure. He is considered a master in all sculptural media. Though his roots are strongly planted in his cultural background, his final product is one which is universal and timeless.

The exhibition includes approximately thirty sculptures ranging from 2 feet to 5 feet in height and several larger-than-life exterior sculptures. Also included is a series of Houser's early paintings as well as contemporary drawings that will complement the sculpture in the exhibition and demonstrate the wide range of the artist's skills.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is indeed fortunate to be the Oklahoma host of "Allan Houser: A Life in Art." Director Tom Topzer scheduled the exhibition for this summer to celebrate Oklahoma Governor David Walter's declaration of 1992 as "The Year of the Indian." He also wanted to give visitors to Red Earth, Oklahoma City's Native American cultural festival scheduled for June 12-14, the opportunity to see this exhibition.

Opening Reception for the Artist:
Wednesday,
June 10, 7 - 9 p.m.
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born on a small farm in Oklahoma in 1914, Allan Houser is a Chiricahua Apache Indian whose family was interned with Geronimo at Fort Sill until 1912. He is believed to be the first Apache child born into freedom.

Houser left the state in 1934 to study under Dorothy Dunn at the Painting Studio of the Santa Fe Indian School. He returned to Oklahoma in 1940 to study with Norwegian muralist Olle Nordmark at the Fort Sill Indian School in Anadarko. He received his first major commission in 1948 from the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas to create a memorial sculpture honoring the Native Americans who died in World War II.

Houser is recognized throughout the art world as an influential teacher who has worked with students at the Santa Fe Indian School, the Inter-Mountain School in Brigham City, Utah and at Dartmouth College. He has been a mentor to virtually every Native American sculptor working today.

In this country Houser may be best known for “Offering of the Sacred Pipe,” at the United States mission to the United Nations in New York. In Oklahoma, he is perhaps best known for “As Long as the Waters Flow,” a bronze sculpture on the front steps of the State Capitol building in Oklahoma City.

Houser’s sculpture has been seen all over the world including exhibitions at the New York World’s Fair (1936), the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. (1939), The Art Institute of Chicago (1939), and The Salon d’Automne, Grand Palais, Paris (1981). His work has also been in touring exhibitions that have traveled throughout South America, Germany and Eastern Europe. His work is included in the permanent collections of over twenty museums around the U.S. and France.

Houser’s many awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship for painting and sculpture and the New Mexico Governor’s Award for Visual Arts. In 1985 he was inducted in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, and in 1989 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Indian Resources Institute, Washington, D.C.

RELATED PROGRAMS

“The Story of Art”
July 8, 1 - 3 p.m. - The Children’s Workshop begins with traditional tales told by a Native American Storyteller. Participants will then be given a part of the story to illustrate in a mural that will be displayed in the Museum throughout the exhibition.

“Native American Music”
August 9, 2 p.m. - In celebration of Houser’s interest in music, a lecture on Native American music will be offered, followed by a traditional musical performance.

“Expressing Heritage in Contemporary Terms”
September 13, 2 - 4 p.m. - The symposium will explore pressing issues facing Houser and other contemporary Native American artists.

The exhibition and all related educational programs are free and open to the public.

FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

Also on view at the FJJMA will be an exhibition from the Museum’s permanent collection of paintings and works on paper done at the Painting Studio at the Santa Fe Indian School under the supervision of Dorothy Dunn in the late 1930s, when Houser was a student there. Examples of his early work are represented in this exhibition as well as that of many of his contemporaries.

Ignacio Moquiu. Zia. Antelope Hunt. Tempera. nd