THE FRED JONES JR. MUSEUM OF ART
ANNOUNCES SUMMER 1994 EXHIBITIONS

March 18, 1994
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHARING THE HERITAGE:
American Indian Art from Oklahoma Private Collections

June 9 - September 11, 1994

The exhibition will open with a free, public reception
7 - 9 p.m. on Thursday, June 9.

NORMAN -- A selection of important works of art by American Indian artists, held
in private Oklahoma collections, is the focus of the exhibition being organized by the

"SHARING THE HERITAGE: American Indian Art from Oklahoma Private
Collections," the third in a series of summer exhibitions focusing on American Indian art
and artists, will give visitors the opportunity to view pieces rarely seen by the public and
will include both traditional and contemporary works of art.

This special exhibition, co-curated by Museum Director Tom Toperzer, Curator Jim
Deighton and noted law and art scholar Rennard Strickland, features some of the finest
examples of work by American Indian artists held in private Oklahoma collections.

Strickland, a legal historian of Osage and Cherokee heritage, is Director of the
American Indian Law and Policy Center and Professor of Law at the University of
Oklahoma. He served as Scholar-in-Residence at the Heard Museum of Native American
and Primitive Art, in Phoenix, AZ from 1988-89. Recently he organized "Shared Visions,"
for the Heard, an internationally touring exhibition of masterworks of American Indian
Art. In January of 1994, Strickland was named president of the Association of American
Law Schools.

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A number of pieces from the collection of Kathy and Russ Walker of OKLAHOMA CITY have been selected for inclusion in the exhibition. Toperzer notes that the Walker's have a comprehensive collection of American Indian art dating from the 1920s to the present that contains many “best examples” of an artists work.

The FJJMA’s long-standing tradition of collecting and exhibiting works of art by American Indian artists began in the 1920’s with the Museum’s first director Oscar B. Jacobson. He maintained that American Indian art was a valuable and precious contribution to world art, and his early recognition of its intrinsic value inspired other Oklahoma citizens to collect the work of American Indian artists. Jacobson is credited with bringing a group of Kiowa artists to OU to study who, with his sponsorship, soon became internationally known as the Kiowa Five.

The Walker’s tempera painting titled “The Love Call” by Monroe Tsatoke, one of the original Kiowa Five artists, will be featured in the exhibition. The painting originally was used for the cover of a portfolio of Kiowa art that Jacobson had made of the Kiowa Five artist’s work. This portfolio represents the beginning of collecting American Indian Art in this country.

MUSEUM INFORMATION

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, located at 410 W. Boyd St., is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.; Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays from 1 until 4:30 p.m.. The Museum is closed on Mondays and University Holidays.

SUMMER HOURS, in effect from June 10 through August 21, 1994, are 12 noon - 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

ADMISSION IS FREE and free parking passes for use in reserved spaces on the Parrington (north) Oval may be obtained at the museum’s security desk.

For further information or to arrange group tours, please call (405) 325-3272. Accommodations on the basis of disability also are available by calling (405) 325-3272.

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PHOTOGRAPHS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST