FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Symposium to Examine Life and Work of Allan Houser

NORMAN, OKLA. – In conjunction with the new exhibition Allan Houser Drawings: The Centennial Exhibition, a symposium is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Allan Houser at 100: Culture and Context will explore the life and work of Chiricahua Apache artist Allan Houser. The event is complimentary and open to the public.

“Distinguished artists, anthropologists, art historians and curators will discuss the achievements and legacy of the Apache modern artist Allan Houser, recipient of the National Medal of the Arts,” said W. Jackson Rushing III, the Adkins Presidential Professor of Art History and Mary Lou Milner Carver Chair in Native American Art at the OU School of Art and Art History. “Considering culture and context, topics include Chiricahua Apache history in Oklahoma, Houser’s designs for book illustrations and his paintings and sculptures in the collection of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art.”

The symposium will be preceded by a public lecture and an opening reception for the exhibition at 7 p.m. Friday, March 7. Both events are complimentary and open to the public.

Rushing, who serves as guest curator of the exhibition, will open the symposium with introductory remarks, followed by Apache Odyssey: Diaspora and the Power of Place by Daniel C. Swan of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

Other presenters include Daniel Rettig, Curator of Collections, Allan Houser Inc., who will provide a personal perspective on the life of Houser. Heather Ahtone, assistant curator of Native American and non-Western art at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, will discuss Houser’s art at the museum. A discussion of Houser’s illustrations for children’s books will be given by OU doctoral student Hadley Jerman.

The final topic, The Art of Apache Resistance: Allan Houser Drawings, will be
presented by Apache artist and writer Douglas Miles.

A break for lunch is scheduled after the first two speakers; however, lunch will not be provided.

Houser, born Allan Capron Haozous, was an award-winning Chiricahua Apache modern artist whose works have appeared across the globe. In Oklahoma, specifically, Houser may best be known for his sculpture *As Long as the Waters Flow*, which was dedicated at the State Capitol in 1989, and *Sacred Rain Arrow*, which has adorned state license plates since 2008.

The new exhibition at the FJJMA features 100 drawings, the majority of which are on loan from Houser’s estate in Santa Fe and have never been exhibited or published. Subjects of the drawings range from dancers and musicians to mounted hunters and warriors, to Southwestern landscapes, portraits and genre scenes of Native life.

*Allan Houser Drawings: The Centennial Exhibition* is on display March 8-May 18 at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Additional information about these events are available on the museum’s website at www.ou.edu/fjjma.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located in the OU Arts District on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the OU Norman campus. General admission to the museum is complimentary to all visitors, thanks to the generosity of the OU Office of the President and the OU Athletics Department. The museum is closed on Mondays. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938 or visiting www.ou.edu/fjjma.

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