

# “Winter Camp” Honors Oklahoma Native Artists

## National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

The “Winter Camp” exhibition includes basket (RIGHT) by Terrell Johnson and print (BELOW) by Benjamin Harjo, Jr. Johnson will also demonstrate basket making during the “Winter Camp” symposium on Jan. 12.

The state of Oklahoma, home to more than 30 tribes, has a long and rich Native history, including an outstanding tradition of artistic excellence. This tradition is proudly displayed and demonstrated; even the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum of Oklahoma City reveals a commitment to Native art programming as part of its overall mission. In 1996 the museum acquired the Arthur and Shifra Silberman Collection of Native American fine art, prompting museum educators to initiate a program called “Winter Camp.”

This special project has unfolded over a number of years, as Native artists with works in the collection have been honored through a series of biennial exhibitions. The exhibitions began in 1998 with a small Christmas exhibition and sale. This year “Winter Camp” is slated to include many of the most prominent figures in contemporary Native Oklahoman art. More than 100 works by 26 artists will be featured.


“These artists are viewed as innovative, culturally-fluent people who have established national as well as international reputations for

evoking a contemporary Native American artistic renaissance,” notes Norman Frank Sheridan, “Winter Camp’s” cofounder and co-director.

One of the artists participating in “Winter Camp” is Cheyenne jeweler Victoria Adams, who studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and the Revere Academy of Goldsmithing in San Francisco. She also studied independently in London and apprenticed with William Burke at Golden Balance Fine Jewelry. Most recently Adams garnered a Best of Division Award at the Santa Fe Indian Market.

Another talented artist included in the exhibition is Teri Greeves, a Kiowa beadwork artists who has gained national recognition for her innovative style of expressing contemporary Native life in beads. In 1999, Greeves received a Best of Show Award at the Santa Fe Indian Market for a beaded parasol and has continued to win top honors in art competition since.

Benjamin Harjo, Jr., Seminole and Shawnee painter and printmaker, has a long list of accomplishments—including top honors at the Santa Fe Indian Market, the Cherokee Heritage Museum and the Heard Museum. Harjo was educated at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

“Winter Camp’s” opening reception and sale is scheduled for January 11, 2002. A symposium will follow on Saturday January 12 at the museum, with selected Native exhibition artists present to discuss their careers and field questions from the public. The exhibition runs through March 12. 



## Selected Exhibitions

**Autry Museum of Western Culture.** *Mountain-Family-Spirit: The Arts and Culture of the Ute Indians.* Through February 27. A team of collaborators from the Ute Mountain Ute tribe, the Southern Ute tribe and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center worked to assemble this important overview of the history and culture of the Ute Indians of Colorado from the 17th through the 20th centuries. Los Angeles, CA. 323/667-2000.

**High Desert Museum.** *By Hand Through Memory.* Ongoing. Large walk through dioramas, aquariums and displays of cultural materials engage visitors as they learn how Native people of the Columbia River Plateau have adapted their traditional cultures to reservation life. Bend, OR. 541/382-4754.

### Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

Ongoing. Permanent exhibits in galleries focus on Native peoples living east of the Mississippi River, the Great Plains, the Southwest, Northwest and Arctic Coasts of North America. Special exhibitions derived from these collections provide visitors with material examples of traditions of Native cultures from across the continent. Evanston, IL. 847/475-1030.

**Museum of Northern Arizona.** *Hollywood's Indians: Stereotypes and Prejudices.* Through April 30. This show explores how cinema has fostered biased images of Native cultures in films over the past 100 years through an exhibition of film posters and lobby cards. Exhibition also features a small theater with excerpts from Hopi filmmaker Victor Masayessva's 1995 acclaimed film *Imagining Indians*. Flagstaff, AZ. 928/774-5213.

**Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.** *All Roads Are Good: Native Voices on Life and Culture.* On view indefinitely. This exhibit represents the views and thoughts of 23 Native American “guest curators” who selected the objects on display. More than 300 objects from the museum's one million object collection were chosen by the selectors on the basis of artistic, cultural, spiritual and personal significance.

Also, *Across Borders: Beadwork in Iroquois Life.* Through May 19. Exploring the artistic, cultural, economic and political significance of beadwork in the lives of Iroquois people, this traveling exhibition also examines the fascinating ways in which beadwork has been used to cross-cultural boundaries and create a dialogue between Native and non-Native peoples. New York, NY. 212/514-3823.

**Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian.** *Many Beautiful Colors, Jewelry by Native American Artists.* Through April 28. This exhibition features works from the permanent collection along with borrowed pieces to document the evolution of this popular art form over the past 30 years. Santa Fe, NM. 505/982-4636.

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, OK. 405/478-2250.