

 **Heard Museum**
Media Release

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Kate Crowley, Heard Museum
602.251.0283, kcrowley@heard.org
Juliet Martin, Heard Museum
602.251.0232, jmartin@heard.org
John Sallot, Desert Botanical Garden
480.481.8101, jsallot@dbg.org

ALLAN HOUSER: TRADITION TO ABSTRACTION
AT THE HEARD MUSEUM & DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

One Exhibition at Two Prestigious Valley Destinations; Special Dual Ticket Offer

PHOENIX, Ariz. – For the first time ever, visitors can see the breadth of legendary American sculptor Allan Houser’s work at two of the Valley’s most prestigious destinations: the [Desert Botanical Garden](#) and the [Heard Museum](#). The collaborative exhibition *Allan Houser: Tradition to Abstraction* features 18 large sculptures from the Houser Estate on the Desert Botanical Garden’s grounds and an extended variety of paintings, drawings, sketches and smaller sculptures by this master artist at the Heard Museum.

Allan Houser: Tradition to Abstraction opens at the Heard Museum and Desert Botanical Garden on Saturday, November 21, 2009, following a variety of member openings and continues at the Desert Botanical Garden through May 31, 2010, and at the Heard through August 22, 2010. Generous support is provided by Chase, APS, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Casino Arizona and Emerson Network Power.

With its fluid forms, evocative shadows and intimate portrayals of life, Houser’s work has been widely recognized throughout the world. Many of Houser’s early paintings and sculpture depicted themes in Apache life inspired by stories told by his father, but toward the end of his career Houser’s sculpture became more abstract. Featured in the Heard museum’s portion of the exhibition are pieces from the Heard Museum’s collection as well as work from the Houser Foundation.

Born on June 30, 1914, Allan Capron Houser become known to the world as Allan Houser. Houser was a descendant from the Fort Sill survivors of the [Warm Springs Chiricahua Apache tribe](#). He was immersed in the history and community of Indian people. Although he was inspired by modern sculptors such as Henry Moore, Isamu Noguchi, Jean Arp and Francisco Zuñiga, Houser is considered one of the best-known and celebrated American artists of the 20th century and is often referred to as the “father” of American Indian sculpture. Houser, who died in 1994, became famous for his bold statements in stone and bronze. He was also an illustrator and painter. Over the course of his artistic career, Houser never failed to create innovative new works of art.

MORE

Allan Houser: Tradition to Abstraction Exhibition – Page 2

Photographs of the artist taken throughout his lifetime will be featured in the Heard Museum's portion of the exhibition, and a video about Houser's life and work will give visitors a more in-depth look at his cultural influences and artistic processes. In addition to the exhibition space, other Houser pieces will be installed throughout the Heard Museum and its grounds, complementing the pieces that currently reside in the courtyards and in exhibits.

In addition to daily museum tours, tours of the exhibit and sculptures found on the grounds of the museum will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 p.m. and Saturdays at 11 a.m.

Patrons have the unique opportunity to purchase original works by Houser and some of his former students at the [Berlin Gallery](#), the Heard Museum's contemporary retail gallery. The Houser Estate has made available to the Berlin Gallery a select group of [Houser](#) bronzes that will be available for purchase during the exhibition. The Berlin Gallery represents 21 other contemporary American Indian artists, many of whom were influenced by this legendary individual.

Lenders to the Heard Museum exhibition are Anna Marie Houser and [Allan Houser Inc.](#), while works for the Desert Botanical Garden are on loan from [Allan Houser Inc.](#) courtesy of [Figarelli Fine Arts](#) of Scottsdale, Arizona.

A variety of collaborative and special programming will take place at both locations. Members of either organization will receive special admission discounts.

The public can find information about programming, classes and special discount offers by visiting www.heard.org/houser. A combined, discounted ticket to visit both locations of the exhibition may be purchased online or in person.

WHERE:

- Heard Museum, 2301 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Ariz.
- Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, Ariz.

COSTS:

Admission to the Heard Museum: \$12 adults; \$11 seniors (65+); \$5 students; \$3 children 6-12; free for children under 6, Heard Museum members and American Indians. *Admission is free for Arizona residents on the second Sunday of most months.*

Admission to the Desert Botanical Garden: \$15 adults; \$13.50 seniors (60+); \$7.50 students; \$5 children 3-12; free for children under 3.

MORE

Allan Houser: Tradition to Abstraction Exhibition – Page 3

A joint ticket for both locations can be purchased at either location or online at www.houserphoenix.org: \$23 adults; \$20 seniors (60+). The joint ticket is valid from the date of purchase until May 31, 2009.

INFO:

Call 602.252.8848 or 480.941.1225. Visit heard.org/Houser.

About the Heard Museum

Since 1929, the Heard has educated visitors from around the world about the art and cultures of American Indians of the Southwest. With almost 40,000 objects in its permanent collection, an education center and award-winning Shop and café, the Heard is committed to being a place of learning, discovery and unforgettable experiences.

About the Desert Botanical Garden

A “Phoenix Point of Pride”, the Desert Botanical Garden is one of only a few botanical gardens accredited by the American Association of Museums. It is a privately funded, non-profit organization and depends on revenues from admissions and gift shop sales, as well as contributions from individuals and businesses to fund its programs of environmental education, plant conservation and research.

Images

A variety of studio images of objects in the exhibition as well as gallery images are available for media usage. Please contact Kate Crowley at kcrowley@heard.org or 602.251.0283, Juliet Martin at jmartin@heard.org or 602.251.0232, or John Sallot at 480-481-8101, jsallot@dbg.org.

###