



MEDIA RELEASE

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**WORKS BY KAY WALKINGSTICK, LEADING CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE PAINTER,
EXHIBITED AT HEARD MUSEUM STARTING OCT. 15**

**Touring exhibition to include a great selection of the artist's most notable works;
Kay WalkingStick to be honored at museum's annual *Moondance at the Heard* gala**

PHOENIX – With paintings by one of today's most accomplished American Indian artists, *Kay WalkingStick: An American Artist* will be on view Oct. 15, 2016, through Jan. 8, 2017, at the Heard Museum. The exhibition is organized by the American Federation of Arts and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Kay WalkingStick: An American Artist surveys the career of a leading practitioner of contemporary landscape painting. Over the course of more than four decades, WalkingStick has avidly explored her own hybrid cultural identity, engaging Native history along with feminism, Minimalism, and other key art historical movements. She has become particularly renowned for her majestic and sensual landscapes, which imbue natural scenery with the charge of personal and collective memory.

The exhibition reveals WalkingStick's diverse approaches to painting over the decades—from graphic figurative work to lushly layered expressionism—and includes a range of her signature diptychs. Co-curators Kathleen Ash-Milby, Associate Curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), and David Penney, NMAI's Associate Director of Museum Scholarship, have selected many of the artist's most notable works.

In addition to tracing WalkingStick's artistic journey, the exhibition engages issues of race, identity, and national history, which are key themes not only to contemporary Native art but to American culture at large. This touring retrospective is the first to fully examine WalkingStick's singular career, demonstrating the breadth of her achievements.

The exhibition, displaying works spanning more than 40 years, has been drawn from public and private collections, including two paintings from the Heard's own collection.

Kay WalkingStick, whose abstract paintings, landscapes and diptychs have a worldwide following, will be one of the honorees at this year's *Moondance at the Heard* gala on Oct. 22. The Heard Museum's annual fundraising gala is a majestic evening filled with museum friends and supporters in the museum's iconic Spanish-colonial style courtyard and plaza.

After its presentation at the Heard, the exhibition will tour to the Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, Ohio (Feb. 9–May 7, 2017); Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, Michigan (June 17–Sept. 10, 2017);

Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma (Oct. 5, 2017–Jan. 7, 2018); and Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, New Jersey (Feb. 3–June 17, 2018).

Admission to the Heard Museum is \$18 general admission, \$13.50 seniors (65+), \$7.50 students with valid I.D., \$7.50 children 6-17, FREE for children 5 and younger, American Indians and museum members. The Heard is open every day of the year except Easter, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For more information call 602.252.8848 or visit heard.org.

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Heard Museum – American Indian Art and History
2301 North Central Ave., Phoenix, Ariz. 85004-1323
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About the American Federation of Arts

The American Federation of Arts is the leader in traveling exhibitions internationally. A nonprofit organization founded in 1909, the AFA is dedicated to enriching the public's experience and understanding of the visual arts through organizing and touring art exhibitions for presentation in museums around the world, publishing exhibition catalogues featuring important scholarly research, and developing educational programs. For more information about the AFA, visit www.afaweb.org.

About the National Museum of the American Indian

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian is committed to advancing knowledge and understanding of the Native cultures of the Western Hemisphere—past, present and future—through partnership with Native people and others. For additional information, visit www.americanindian.si.edu. Follow the museum via social media on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

About the Heard

Since 1929, the Heard Museum, a private non-profit organization, has enchanted visitors from around the world with the art, culture and history of indigenous peoples of the Americas with an emphasis on tribes and other cultures of the Southwest. With more than 40,000 fine artworks and cultural artifacts in its permanent collection, 12 long-term and changing exhibit galleries, an education center, an award-winning Shop, the Books & More boutique bookstore, Coffee Cantina and Courtyard Café, the Heard Museum is a place of learning, discovery and unforgettable experiences.

Exhibit, event and program funding at the Heard Museum are supported, in part, by the generosity of Heard Museum members and donors, the Arizona Commission on the arts, City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In association with the Smithsonian, the Heard Museum is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation.

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