



LARGE-SCALE EXHIBITION OF MASTERWORKS BY T.C. CANNON OPENS AT HEARD MUSEUM

Iconic works by legendary artist to be shown for the first time in 25 years

PHOENIX – The Heard Museum is set to welcome *Of God and Mortal Men: Masterworks by T.C. Cannon* from the Nancy and Richard Bloch Collection. The large-scale exhibition of work by American artist T.C. Cannon (1946-1978) includes paintings not publicly exhibited in 25 years.

The exhibit will be open to the public October 7 through April 15. Cannon, whose Kiowa name *Pai Doung a Day* translates to One-Who-Stands-in-the-Sun, was one of the most significant Native American painters of the 20th century.

T.C. Cannon came of age in the early 1970s after serving for two years in the Vietnam war. His vibrant, colorful imagery typically features stylized depictions of American Indians and reflects a wide range of social, political and cultural influences including the civil rights movement in the United States, new figuration movements in art of the 1970s, film, and pop art. The exhibition features work from his mature Santa Fe period and includes a majority of his most iconic paintings including *Self Portrait in the Studio*, *Chief Watching* and *Grandmother Gestating Father*.

“The Bloch’s collection represents the finest collection, public or private, of Cannon’s work,” said Heard Museum Director and CEO David M. Roche. “It’s an honor, and a true thrill, to introduce these paintings, many of which haven’t been shown publicly for more than 25 years, to a whole new generation of people.”

T.C. Cannon is often referred to as the “James Dean” of the American Indian art world. Like Dean, Cannon was famously charismatic and deeply gifted; he was also tragically killed at the young age of 31. A primary goal of the exhibit is to bring new attention to an under-recognized artist and make the case for including his work in the broader narrative of American art.

The exhibit will also feature woodblock prints, lithographs and drawings by Cannon. Visitors will be able to page digitally through Cannon's sketchbook that contains drawings and poems as well as song lyrics. A video remembrance of Cannon from the *Colores* series by the New Mexico PBS station KNME-TV will accompany the exhibition.

At the same time, two related exhibitions will open at the Heard Museum. *Lines and Codes* traces the history of Plains Indian drawing from which Cannon's work emerged. And *It's Your Turn* provides family-friendly activities inspired by the Cannon exhibit suitable for children 8 years and up.

The Heard Museum in partnership with the Museum of New Mexico Press has published a book entitled *Of God and Mortal Men: T.C. Cannon*, available now for sale at the Heard Museum bookshop, *Books and More*, and on Amazon.com.

This will be the third exhibition opening in the new Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Grand Gallery. The previous exhibit, *Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera* from the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection, was the most successful in the museum's history setting attendance, revenue and membership records.

For more information on the upcoming exhibit, visit the [Heard Museum's website](#).

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About the Heard

Since its founding in 1929, the Heard Museum, a private non-profit organization, has grown in size and stature to become recognized internationally for the quality of its collections, world-class exhibitions, educational programming and its unmatched festivals. Dedicated to the advancement of American Indian art, the Heard successfully presents the stories of American Indian people from a first-person perspective, as well as exhibitions that showcase the beauty and vitality of traditional and contemporary art.

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