



Figure 1. Leon Polk Smith (1906-1996), *Inca*, acrylic on canvas, 1970.

POPULAR HEARD MUSEUM EXHIBITION
LEON POLK SMITH: HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT
EXTENDED THROUGH JULY 3

WHAT: **PHOENIX (May 26, 2021)** – The Heard Museum is pleased to announce a five-week extension to its popular Grand Gallery exhibition, *Leon Polk Smith: Hiding in Plain Sight*, exploring the influence of American Indian creative expression on the work of iconic artist Leon Polk Smith. The exhibition will now close on Saturday, July 3.

Smith was a celebrated modernist painter and leader of the Hard-edge painting movement, an art form of the late 1950s and '60s that emphasized geometric forms and bright colors.

“This exhibition has received tremendous visitor feedback, and we’re seeing strong upward attendance trends month-over-month, which we attribute to the success of this show,” said David M. Roche, Dickey Family Director & CEO. He continued, “We are thankful to the Leon Polk Smith Foundation and other lenders to the exhibition for making the extension possible and providing Valley residents and visitors the additional time to experience *Leon Polk Smith: Hiding in Plain Sight*.”

This is the largest exhibition of Smith’s paintings in more than 25 years and features 37 works that span seven decades. The exhibition pairs Smith’s paintings and works on paper with examples of American Indian beadwork, ribbon appliqué and painted hides from his native Oklahoma.

A fully illustrated catalogue with new scholarship is available at heardmuseumshop.com.

DATES: Thursday, Feb. 4 – Sunday, July 3, 2021

TIMES: From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday; closed Mondays

LOCATION: Heard Museum
Grand Gallery
2301 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

VISUALS:

- 37 original works by mid-century modern artist Leon Polk Smith
- Historic and rare American Indian beadwork, ribbon appliqué and painted hides from Oklahoma Territory
- Private media previews and tours can be scheduled by appointment
- B-roll of the exhibition available by request
- Virtual interviews available

CONTACT: Todd Vigil, tvigil@heard.org, 480.227.5779
Exhibition Media Kit and Photos: heard.org/lpsmediakit

Leon Polk Smith: Hiding in Plain Sight is made possible by:

Lead Supporters



*Exhibition catalogue is made possible through the generous support of
the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation*

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FOUNDATION

Leon Polk Smith Foundation

Additional Support

Robert Lehman Foundation

Arizona Commission on the Arts
Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture
and
Patrons of the Grand Gallery Exhibition Fund

About the Henry Luce Foundation

A leader in arts funding in the United States, the Luce Foundation's American Art Program was established in 1982 to support museums, universities, and arts organizations in their efforts to advance the understanding and experience of American and Native American visual arts through research, exhibitions, publications, and collection projects.

About the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation

The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation recognizes the power of the arts to challenge and shift perceptions, spark creativity and connect people across cultures. We lend and exhibit artworks from our collection and support innovative individuals and pivotal initiatives in the arts.

About the Leon Polk Smith Foundation

The Leon Polk Smith Foundation was established to preserve and promote the art and legacy of Leon Polk Smith (1906-1996). The Foundation encourages and assists museums and other educational organizations to organize and produce exhibitions of and publications on Smith's work and to create online resources about his art and career.

ABOUT THE HEARD MUSEUM

Since its founding in 1929, the Heard Museum, a private nonprofit organization, has grown in size and stature to become recognized internationally for the quality of its collections, world-class exhibitions, educational programming and 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. The Heard Museum is supported, in part, by the generosity of Heard Museum members and donors, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and the City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture. In association with the Smithsonian, the Heard Museum is part of a select group of museums and cultural, educational and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation.

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