



PRESS RELEASE

Heard Museum Announces Opening of Major Exhibition, Maria & Modernism

Feb. 23 – July 28, 2024
The Heard Museum

Images available at: <https://heard.org/press/>

PHOENIX – [The Heard Museum](https://heard.org/) announced today the opening of a major new exhibition, *Maria & Modernism*, starting Feb. 23. The original exhibition features more than eighty works spanning seven decades by San Ildefonso ceramist Maria Martinez (1887-1980), one of the 20th century's most celebrated and recognizable women whose work continues to influence new generations of artists.

Modernists reconsidered existing art forms and their ideas radically changed art, design, and architecture in the first half of the 20th century. Through experimentation with traditional Pueblo ceramic production and design, Maria Martinez radically transformed the black-ware vessel of her ancestors. Martinez was so renowned in her lifetime that she met U.S. presidents, movie stars, scientists and fellow artists including Georgia O'Keeffe.

Countless talented contemporary artists have been inspired, including Rose Simpson and her 1985 Chevrolet El Camino, *Maria*. "Her paint is simultaneously reflective and matte, translating dimensions—the landscape that she journeys through is painted in light on the dark gloss of her body. When I put the last touches on the paint job of the '85 El Camino, I stepped back and said to her; "Hello Maria. I name you for a legend. And we will journey these lifetimes together.'"



"This exhibition is the first to exclusively focus on Maria Martinez's overlooked contributions to Modernism, the most important artistic movement of the 20th century," said David M. Roche, Dickey Family Director and CEO of the Heard Museum. "Visitors will see masterpieces of Martinez's work that

we have gathered from collections around the United States including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.”

From the time Martinez began producing her innovative black-on-black ware, Maria’s pottery was sought after by major artists, collectors, and thought leaders. Her sleek, black, sculptural vessels could fit into any modern 20th-century home, and often did. Generations of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. family, perhaps the 20th century’s most influential collectors of modern art, collected Martinez’s work. Other 20th-century influencers who collected Maria’s work included the photographer Ansel Adams and the Manhattan Project scientists Drs. Robert Brode and Enrico Fermi. Examples of Martinez’s work from these collectors will be on view in the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Grand Gallery at the Heard Museum.

The exhibition will be open through July 28th, 2024. For more information on the Heard Museum, visit <https://heard.org/>.

Above images: Maria Martinez (1887-1980) and Santana Martinez (1909-2002) P'ohwhogeh Ówíngēh (San Ildefonso Pueblo). Black-on-black jar, c. 1970 Polished blackware pottery with matte paint and gunmetal finish. Gift of Mr. Edward Jacobson, NA-SW-SI-A10-22

Rose Simpson (Kah'p'oo Ówíngēh Santa Clara Pueblo, b. 1983), Maria, 2014. 1985 Chevy El Camino, bodywork and customization by artist. Designs inspired by traditional Tewa black-on-black pottery, named after Maria Martinez of San Ildefonso Pueblo, photos by Kate Russell.

Notes to Editors:

Maria & Modernism will run from Feb. 23, 2024, through July 28, 2024 at The Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona.

The museum is open Monday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ticket prices for the museum are as follows: adults are \$25 at the door, \$22.50 online; seniors (65+) are \$20 at the door, \$18 online; students with a valid ID are \$10 at the door, \$9 online; children (6-17) are \$10 at the door, \$9 online; all children five and under, American Indians (with Tribal ID or CIB) and Heard Museum Members are free.

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Credentialed members of the media may contact a member of the marketing staff for more information concerning photography of public events or museum galleries.

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. For more information, please visit heard.org.



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Media Contact:

Ivana Morales
973-864-4523

ivana@evolveprandmarketing.com



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