



PRESS RELEASE

Heard Museum Welcomes 2025 with New Exhibition

Storyteller: The Photography of Jerry Jacka celebrates the life and work of Jerry Jacka

PHOENIX – [The Heard Museum](#)'s first exhibition in the new year, *Storyteller: The Photography of Jerry Jacka*, opened on Jan. 24, 2025. Jacka, a Phoenix native, was one of the most widely published photographers in the Southwest, having devoted more than 50 years to photographing the region and its people.

“Jerry Jacka’s award-winning photography has profoundly influenced how generations of people think and feel about the landscapes of the American Southwest,” said David M. Roche, Heard Museum CEO. “Of particular interest to the Heard Museum are his portraits of Native American artists, which reveal the people behind the works of art that we share with our visitors. The gift of the Jerry Jacka archive to the Heard makes us stewards of one of the largest and most consequential collections of documentary photography of Native American artists in the nation.”

In 2024, the Heard Museum received a landmark gift of the Jerry Jacka archive, which makes the institution stewards of one of the largest and most consequential collections of documentary photography of Native American artists in the Nation. *Storyteller: The Photography of Jerry Jacka* is an original exhibition that features Jacka’s portraits of iconic American Indian artists paired with examples of their artwork from the museum’s collection.

Museum visitors will experience images of artists, primarily from the American Southwest, engaged in a range of activities related to traditional cultural practices including weaving, pottery, kachina-carving, and jewelry making. The exhibition also features images from his award-winning contributions to *Arizona Highways Magazine*. Jacka’s award-winning photography has profoundly influenced how generations of people think and feel about the people and landscapes of the American Southwest.

As a young boy, Jacka rode horseback for miles through the countryside around his home. With a 4x5 camera, borrowed from his high school photo department, he began to capture the mountains and deserts of his homeland. At the age of 16, his first award-winning photograph was published; an image of a live rattlesnake coiled on a bleached cow skull.

He received numerous awards including the Communication Arts Award for his outstanding documentary of the Hopi Indians; the National Cowboy Hall of Fame award for the Most Outstanding Art Book of 1988; a Rocky Mountain Emmy Award and more.

Storyteller: The Photography of Jerry Jacka is made possible thanks to Susan Esco Chandler and Alfred D. Chandler, and Lily Chester in memory of Sheldon Chester.

Notes to Editors:

Storyteller: The Photography of Jerry Jacka opened at the Heard Museum on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025.

The Heard Museum and Museum Shop are open daily, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed on Easter, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Ticket prices for the museum are as follows: adults are \$26; seniors (65+) are \$21; military members are \$21 (with valid ID); university/college students with a valid ID are \$10; children (6-17) are \$10; all children 5 years and under, American Indians (with Tribal ID or CIB) and Heard Museum members are free.

Photography of any kind may not be used for publication without written permission from the museum and/or artists.

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 has grown to become nationally and internationally recognized for its world-class exhibitions, award-winning publications, unparalleled festivals, and innovative educational programs. Dedicated to connecting Indigenous creativity to the world, the Heard showcases the beauty and vitality of Indigenous creative expression by presenting the voice and vision of American Indian artists. A welcoming destination for children and families, the Heard offers engaging experiences that inspire curiosity and foster appreciation for American Indian art and culture. The Heard Museum is supported 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.

For more information, please visit heard.org.



To follow updates on the museum via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, use @heardmuseum.

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A full media kit with logos, high-resolution images, past announcements and more can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3yVh8ho>.