



PRESS RELEASE

## Heard Museum's Newest Exhibition Centering Wisdom and Reflection

*Wisdom from the Future Brings Together Voices of Indigenous Artists Aged 55 & Better*

Images available at: [Heard.org/Press](https://www.heard.org/press)

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**PHOENIX** – [The Heard Museum](https://www.heard.org) is proud to present its newest exhibition, *Wisdom from the Future*, opening on Friday, April 10. It pairs the works of artists aged “55 and better” with their personal reflections, revealing powerful stories of inspiration, challenge, and growth, along with insights into their artistic approach and creative processes.

“These letters allow audiences to see the artists as whole people,” said co-curator Olivia Barney (Diné). “Their artwork has always communicated meaning, but their words add another layer. One that captures how they want to be remembered, in their own voices.”

At the heart of the exhibition are written letters created by 28 artists, each offering advice to their younger selves. Artists were invited to respond openly, with minimal constraints, resulting in a wide range of deeply personal entries. Some letters are concise and distilled while others unfold across multiple paragraphs. Together, they form an intimate record of lived experiences.

Artists featured in the exhibition include:

- Kay WalkingStick (Cherokee)
- Norbert Peshlakai (Diné)
- Preston Singletary (Tlingit)
- Tony Abeyta (Diné)
- Verma Nequatewa (Hopi)
- Nora Naranjo Morse (Kha’P’o Ówíngēh (Santa Clara Pueblo))
- Juanita Growing Thunder Fogarty (Fort Peck Assiniboine/Sioux)
- Barbara Teller Ornelas (Diné)
- Ṣhahiỵq̣h/Richard Zane Smith (Wyandot)
- And more

While some artists offer technical guidance in their letters, many extend beyond the studio to reflect on identity, relationships, perseverance, and what it means to live a creative life. The diversity of tone, ranging from heartfelt to humorous, exemplifies the richness of the human experience represented throughout the exhibition.

The exhibition was inspired by and developed in connection with the museum's Creative Aging program, which is designed to help participants (55+) develop their artistic abilities through intentional, step-by-step instruction with a variety of different activities.

On April 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the museum will hold a symposium that further explores the exhibition's themes with panelists reflecting on the evolution of their artistic practice, discussing the theme of the exhibition and notes they would write to today's young artists. The event is included with museum admission.

This exhibition is made possible thanks to the support of an anonymous donor.

For more information on the Heard Museum, visit [heard.org](http://heard.org).

*Pictured above: Tony Abeyta (Diné, b. 1965), Canyon, 2004. Oil on canvas, 36 x 30 in. Gift of American Indian Art Magazine, 4821-1.*

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### **Notes to Editors:**

*Wisdom from the Future* will be open from April 10 through Dec. 6, 2026.

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.

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### **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](http://heard.org).

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<https://bit.ly/3yVh8ho>.