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PRESS RELEASE

New Heard Museum Exhibition Explores Century of Navajo Weaving, Trading Posts and Artistic Independence

"Twilight: Trading Posts and Creative Legacies" Opens Oct. 25

PHOENIX, AZ - The Heard Museum will open its final exhibition of 2026, *Twilight: Trading Posts and Creative Legacies*, on Oct. 25, exploring a century of change in the relationship between Native artists and Southwest trading posts and the growing artistic independence of Native weavers.

Opening ahead of Native American Heritage Month in November, *Twilight* takes its name from a time of transition, when darkness ultimately gives way to dawn and a new day. The exhibition traces a similar evolution in Native art, from the emergence of a complex, symbiotic relationship between artists and trading posts in the early 20th century to a period when artists increasingly asserted their creative agency and reached new audiences.

That early relationship between weavers and traders helped foster a florescence of creativity, particularly in finely woven Navajo textiles. Distinctive designs became associated with specific trading posts and regional styles, while the names and creative achievements of individual weavers and their families were often subsumed under the identities of the trading posts through which their work was sold.

By the last quarter of the 20th century, social and technological changes on the Navajo and Hopi reservations began to diminish the central role trading posts played in daily life. The relationship between weavers and traders evolved as well, with weavers increasingly creating textiles that expressed their own artistic visions and reaching markets beyond the reservation and visiting tourists.

"Twilight presents artists as creators who, with the passage of time, assumed control of the presentation of their artistic vision to an ever-growing audience," said the Heard Museum Director of Research Dr. Ann Marshall. "It is about artists surmounting the difficulties of isolation and travel through a beautiful land and finding a way to honor and continue important aspects of culture while creating a synthesis that incorporates contemporary times and a shifted economy."

Twilight: Trading Posts and Creative Legacies explores this history through works from the Heard Museum's collection, with a primary focus on Navajo textiles. Highlights include the museum's recent acquisition by Calvin Toney (Diné) and a pictorial textile by Florence Riggs (Diné) depicting the exterior of a trading post. The exhibition also features pottery, jewelry, and photography connected to trading posts.

The exhibition is made possible with support from The Grand Gallery Exhibition Fund, Heard Museum Membership, City of Phoenix Arts + Culture, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and an anonymous supporter.

For more information on the exhibit, visit heard.org/exhibition/twilight.

Above image: Marlowe Katoney, Eye of the Storm, 2013

Notes to Editors:

The Heard Museum and Museum Shop are open daily, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum is closed on Easter, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. From June 1 to Aug. 31, the Museum and Shop are open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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; and 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.

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