

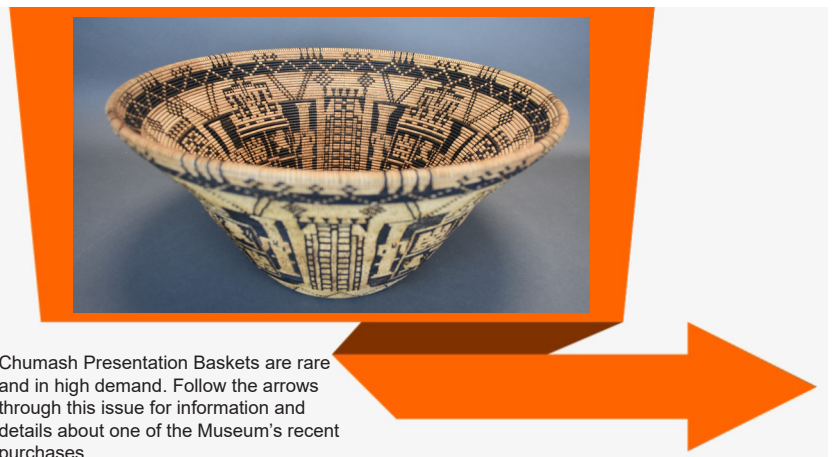
## ***Exhibit: Los Huicholes***

*Los Huicholes* exhibit is now open for viewing in the Nathaniel and Lana Grey Gallery. The Huichol peoples of west Mexico are known for their colorful beading and “yarn painting” crafts. Yarn or beads are pressed into beeswax to form paintings and decorative covers on objects. The Huichol reside in small, isolated *rancherías* (extended family settlements of up to 100 people), scattered throughout the highlands. Because of their remoteness, they have been able to retain most of their unique culture and Pre-Hispanic religious beliefs. To this day, they continue to create traditional art and practice ancient rituals that predate the time of the Spanish conquest. Featured in this exhibit will be objects from **Lee Spruell**, who has worked among the Huichol as a “missionary educator” for nearly fifty years. He recently gifted his personal collection to the Museum while preparing for a permanent move to Mexico.

***Follow the complete story on page 5***

### In this Issue:

Directions & People .....	Page 1
Calender of Events.....	Page 2
Current & Upcoming Exhibits..	Page 3
Exhibit: <i>Los Huicholes</i> .....	Page 5
Recent Acquisitions.....	Page 8



## Directions



**After a two-month hiatus** responding to the CoViD-19 pandemic with most of our staff working from home, the Museum reopened to the public May 15. As we examine the effects of this situation, we anticipate considerably less income this year than budgeted for, while our total expenses will not be affected. We join many of our sister institutions in the not-for-profit world. However we are adhering to our founding principles and will not avail ourselves of government programs that might provide some relief. We have managed to maintain staff hours, and compensation, at pre-pandemic levels, provide safety and security for our 33,000+ collection items, and make some of our visual resources available on-line.

We are providing basic PPE for visitors and encouraging safe-distance practices, while continuing with enhanced cleaning and sanitation procedures. As we proceed through the rest of the year, we will continue to monitor the situation and make all adjustments as necessary. We are extremely grateful to those who have maintained and increased their generous support these past months particularly, those who helped commemorate the Museum's 45th anniversary at the end of April.

We have broadened our "travel opportunities" by installing photo murals where visitors can take "selfie shots" in front of images of the **Sphinx** and **Great Pyramid** in Egypt, the Inkan site of **Machu Picchu** high in the Andes near Cuzco, Peru, and the stone circle of **Stonehenge** in England. These murals will provide a "you are there" feel for those who want to send pix from more "exotic" locales while vacationing in McCurtain County. The murals' subjects ("cultural hot-spots" around the world) will change periodically. The Museum has postponed its planned September trip to southern **Spain and Morocco** to **February, 2021**. For more information, please go to [www.museumoftheredriver.org/](http://www.museumoftheredriver.org/)



## People and Programs



As a part of her duties, Primary South (Idabel School District) kindergarten and 1st grade teacher **Stephanie Ratcliff** recorded videos for her online students. (Connecting via the web was required due to the shutdown of schools in response to the CoViD-19 pandemic). These video lessons included her reading various folk tales, using exhibits and objects at the Museum as "backdrops." She very kindly made these videos available to the Museum's online visitors as well.

Joining the staff as a museum assistant, with general duties in the areas of visitor services and community interaction, is **Rachel Bryant**.



Stephanie Ratcliff

Rachel Bryant



Brenda Johnson instructs on making silver jewelry, results below.



This year's **Summer Explorers Camp**, focused on Imperial China, was held "virtually." Instructional videos were created and uploaded several times a day to the Museum's social media outlets. Packets containing curricular materials to support the videos, and supplies for creative, hands-on art projects were made available for pick-up or shipping. Participants could follow the various uploads, or at any time thereafter. This proved popular for families who were not able to interact on a "live" basis.

With ongoing Social Distancing Guidelines and temporary closures, activities at the Museum have been limited. On June 6, a come and go activity **Fun with Rock Art** allowed families to participate in a craft in small groups. On June 27, **Brenda Johnson** hosted a **Silver Metal Clay Jewelry** workshop. Attendance was kept small to adhere to Social Distancing Guidelines.



Participants in "Fun with Rock Art" Pictures above and below.





## Calendar of Events (July-October 2020)

July 6-8 Virtual **Allen Graffham Memorial Dino Camp** - Kids ages 4-8 are invited to participate in the Museum's annual Dino Camp. This year the Programs staff has created a virtual summer camp. Participants will learn about *Acrocanthosaurus* and other dinosaurs that lived during its time. Class videos will be posted on social media and the Museum's website.



July 11 10am-3pm **FUN with Huichol Bead Art** - Our "Fun with..." series continues this July with crafting Huichol bead art. Beads, among other materials such as yarn and wood, are highly utilized in the extremely creative and imaginative art of the Huichol people of west Mexico. They use tiny beads pressed into sun-warmed beeswax to decorate their masks, bowls, and animal figures. Visitors are invited to create their own bead art at this free, drop-in event beginning at 10 am.



August 8 10am-3pm **FUN with Mosaics** - This free event is a workshop in which visitors can create their own mosaics. Mosaics are designs and other images created using small pieces of stone and other materials; these have traditionally been used to decorate walls, ceilings, floors, and other precious objects since the ancient Mesopotamians. Visitors are invited to make their own design at this free, drop-in event beginning at 10am.



August 15, 22, 29, and Sept 5 10am-1pm The Museum will be hosting four **drawing classes** taught by **Dr. Gleny Beach**. Attendees will learn the foundations of drawing still life subjects. Beginning August 15, each class will be held from 10 am to 1 pm for the next three consecutive Saturdays in August (15th, 22nd, 29th) and the first Saturday in September (5th). The class fee is \$100 for all four summer classes, and all supplies. Attendance is limited to the first 15 to sign up. Returning members of the first drawing session who bring all their materials will receive a discount on their registration fee.



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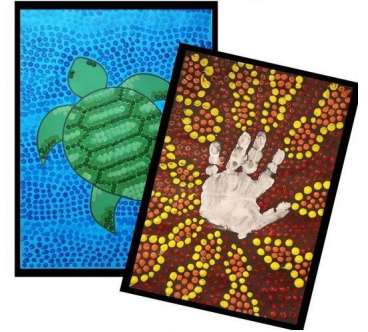
The Chumash are a Native American people who historically inhabited the central and southern coastal regions of California, in portions of what is now San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties, extending from Morro Bay in the north to Malibu in the south.

## Calendar of Events (July-October 2020) Continued

Museum programs are supported by grants from **Arvest** (Bank) **Foundation**, **International Paper Foundation**, and the **Jack and Linda Bell Programs Fund**. The monthly Saturday **FUN with...** workshops are offered free to the public through **The Ann Armstrong Education Fund**. **Summer Explorers** and **DINO CAMP** fees are minimized by **The Mark Aviyonah and Shera Aviyonah Scholarship Fund**, with additional scholarship support from **Cheryl Townsend**. Recent community programs received cash support from **Bailey Discount Building Supply (DeQueen)** and **Edward Jones, Inc. (Idabel)**.

September 12 10am-3pm

**Fun with Aboriginal Dot Art** - Our free, drop-in events continue in September with Fun with Aboriginal Dot Art! Dot paintings are internationally recognized as unique and integral to Australian Aboriginal art. While the dot style combined with cross hatching may be beautifully aesthetic to the eye, its deeper purpose is to disguise the revered meanings behind the stories in the paintings. Guests are invited to drop-in to create their own dot painting.



September 26 3pm-6pm

**Class "Home Spa Saturday"** - Guests are invited to join local homesteader **Angela Smith** as she leads a beginners class on homemade luxury bath products such as bombs, salts, and oils. Attendees will learn the fine art of creating all the products necessary to create a spa-like experience in their own home, combined with learning decades-old homesteading processes that are still around today! The cost for the class is \$45 and attendance is limited to the first 10 to sign up.



October 17 1pm-4pm

Local artist **Brenda Johnson** will be teaching a stained glass workshop this fall at the Museum. Beginner Level, no previous experience needed (age 18+). \$35 per person includes supplies and use of tools.



October 24 10am-3pm

**Fun with Tin Painting** - Guests will replicate this centuries-old technique with aluminum foil and paper plates. One of the least known, and most adaptable, example of Mexican folk art is *hojalata*. Since the tenth century, this simple metal has been made more beautiful by being molded, stamped, punched, painted, and cut into a wide range of decorative and useful artwork.





## Current and Upcoming Exhibits (through October, 2020)

Mary Bratton Curtis Gallery

### Art In Community: The Harold Stevenson Collections

(Extended through August 23)

Stevenson (1929 - 2018) is among the most important label natives whose contributions to modern art earned him international renown. His skills were recognized at an early age, and he studied at New York's Art Students League with **Andy Warhol** and **Robert Rauschenberg**. He quickly became a fixture of the New York and world art scene. This exhibit focuses on his

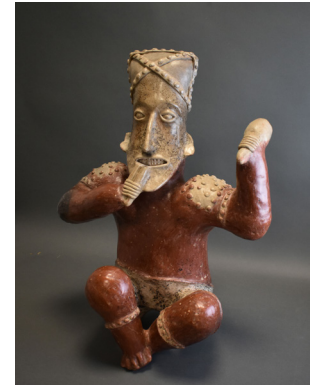


Harold Stevenson, Athens Greece, 1986

contributions to the community and includes over fifty (50) works held by individuals, families, and institutions with connections to the immediate area. It is organized by Stevenson's biographer, **Dr. Dian Jordan** (University of Texas-Permian Basin) serving as visiting curator.

### Precolumbian Lifeways (September 19 - December 6)

Using works from the personal collections of **Drs. Ernesto and Luisa Lira** (Corpus Christi, TX) and **Dr. Richard and Nancy Weiss** (Tucson, AZ), plus some from the Museum, this exhibit presents artifacts from many of the ancient cultures of central America to illustrate the ethnological themes of Domestic Life, Technology and Art, Beliefs, and Encounters. Two years in the planning, this major exhibit will travel to additional venues following its presentation at the Museum of the Red River. Serving as the exhibit's chief Curator was retired archaeologist and Precolumbian art specialist **Dr. Frederick W. Lange**.



Male Efficgy, ca. 300 BC-AD, Ameca-Etztlan Style, (Jalisco, Mexico) Loan courtesy of R. Weiss

### Lifeways Gallery

Objects from the Museum's collections are used to illustrate the ethnological themes of Domestic Life, Beliefs, Encounters, and Technology and Art. This gallery also houses the *Gregory H. Perino Archaeological Study Area* where collections of regional archaeological material are available for research and appreciation. It honors the work of **Gregory H. Perino** (1914 - 2005), archaeologist and the Museum's first director (1975 - 1984). The new *Recent Acquisitions* area is also located here, and for the next decade will honor the ongoing generosity to the collections of **Dr. Richard and Nancy Weiss**.



Guacamaya ( Parrot), 2009, Elias Pena (b.1976) Mata Ortiz (Chihuahua, Mexico)



Museum guests explore the archaeological study collections in the Lifeways Gallery



Traditionally, Chumash Indians were hunter-gatherers. They were also very good fishermen, being among only two tribes to regularly navigate the Pacific Ocean. Their canoes, called *tomo/s*, could be used for moving goods or even whaling. Because they had access to resources on both land and sea, the Chumash were one of the more prosperous Indian tribes in California

## Current and Upcoming Exhibits (through October, 2020) continued

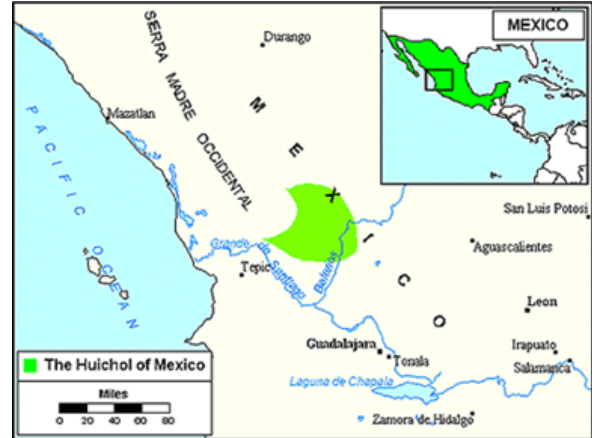
### Nathaniel and Lana Grey Gallery

(in the Mary H. Herron Community Conference Center)

### Los Huicholes (through September 6, into the Jack Bell Hall)

The *Huichol* (wee-chul) - who call themselves *Wixarika* - are a native group living in the rugged Sierra Madre Occidental mountains of western Mexico. They speak an Uto-Aztecan dialect, which suggests a kinship with the Aztecs of Mexico, and more distantly to the Hopi and Tohono O'odham peoples of the southwestern United States.

The *Huichol* reside in small, isolated *rancherías* (extended family settlements of up to 100 people), scattered throughout the highlands. Because of their remoteness, they have been able to retain most of their unique culture and Pre-Hispanic religious beliefs. To this day, they continue to create traditional art and practice ancient rituals that predate the time of the Spanish conquest. Central to *Huichol* life are shamanism and an annual trek of several hundred miles to gather peyote, a plant that is sacred to the people and integral to their ceremonies.



Huichol Family: Jubita Carillo de la Rosa (far right), her parents, and younger siblings. Photo by Lee Spruell

An agricultural people, the *Huichol* work communally to clear land and tend to crops of beans, corn, and squash, which are typically planted on steep, rocky slopes with digging sticks. Their diet is supplemented by hunting deer in the higher elevations and fishing the river bottoms. Wary of influences from the "modern" world, they are independent and consider their culture superior to others. Only gradually have they adopted domesticated animals, metal implements, and other household conveniences. In recent times, the Huichol homeland has been increasingly visited by outsiders, from government officials to tourists. One response, seen in their arts and crafts, has been to support a market for tourists and to create a variety of goods especially for that market.

Because of this increased commercial engagement with outsiders, the *Huichol* are perhaps best known for their art. Their distinctive work, (characterized by vibrant colors and highly symbolic imagery), in the form of yarn paintings, embroidered clothing, woven bags, or beaded objects, derives from visions and symbols that form the basis of their lives. Most artworks are physical translations of imagery seen during enhanced states of awareness, typically induced by peyote. For the *Huichol*, art is functional as well as beautiful, and as they have no written language, it is a method of documenting and communicating their knowledge.



Bags and Belts, ca.1980-1990, Gift of Lee Spruell



Yarn Painting, Apollonio de la Cruz, ca.1980, Gift of Fred Fagan



Ceramic Pumpkin with Beaded Lizard ca.2004



Beaded Gourd Bowl, ca. 1990, Gift of Lee Spruell



## Current and Upcoming Exhibits (through October, 2020) continued

### J. Marshall and Sally Gettys Family Gallery

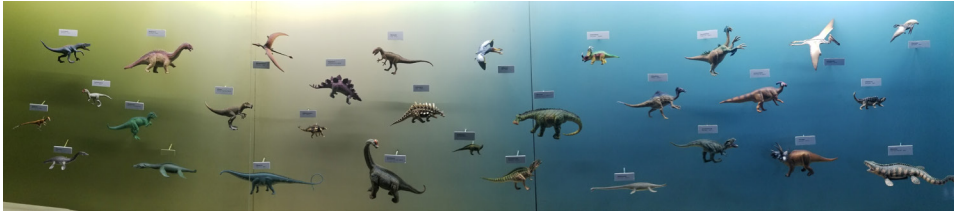
Focused on native technology in the creation of art, this intimate exhibit space honors the work of the late **J. Marshall Gettys**, and acknowledges the continuing generosity of his wife **Sally Gettys**, their extended family, and friends.



Plaited Heart Basket, ca.1989, Bottom left, Plaited Bull-Nose Basket/start, ca. 1985 Claude Medford Jr., (Louisiana Choctaw, 1941-1989), Gifts of Diana and Jeni Gettys Bourke, *In Memory of J. Marshall Gettys*

### Ed and Cindy Fulmer Dino Den

Attached to the gallery housing the cast skeleton of ***Acrocanthosaurus atokensis***, this exhibit space provides interpretive materials placing Acro in context with other dinosaurs of the Mesozoic Era. The official State Dinosaur of Oklahoma, Acro lived during the early Cretaceous period, about 110 – 125 million years ago. The original fossil of the McCurtain County specimen was the most complete one ever recovered, and provided paleontologists new information on this “top” predator of its time. The “Den” honors the generosity of the **Ed and Cindy Fulmer** family.



Display representing species through the Mesozoic Era

### Don and Mary Etta Herron Reception Hall

The main reception area at the front entrance to the Museum, this hall honors the generosity of **Don and Mary Etta Herron**. It houses the glass and steel sculpture ***Raven Kachina*** by the late Quinault/Isleta Pueblo artist **Marvin Oliver** (1946-2019), the patinated steel sculpture ***Solitude Falls Summer*** by **Donnie Wanner**, two (2) large Talavera style lidded jars, the “rabbit sculpture” ***elizabeth*** by Ft. Worth artist **Chris Powell** (b.1960), and an untitled multimedia piece by **Robert Rivera** (b.1950). Also installed are four wood works by sculptor **James Strickland** (b.1945), created during his time as visiting professor/artist in residence at the University of Oklahoma in the late 1970's, and the large mural ***Coming to Oklahoma***, created in 2017 by pastel artist **Bill Baker** (b.1961). Large ethnographic wood carvings from the *Nupe* and *Dogon* peoples of west Africa and the *Latmul* peoples of New Guinea round out the artworks on view.



*Solitude Falls Summer*, 2015, Donnie Wanner (American)



Talavera-style lidded jar, 20th century, Tlaxcala or Puebla, Mexico



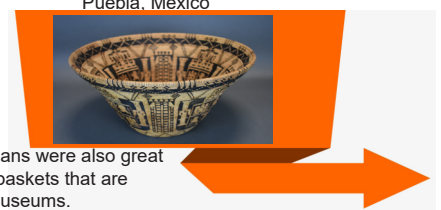
Untitled Sculpture, 2008, Robert Rivera (American, b. 1950)



*elizabeth*, by Chris Powell (American, b. 1960)



*Raven Kachina* (2003,2019) Marvin Oliver (Quinault/Isleta 1946-2019)



The Chumash Indians were also great artisans, creating baskets that are housed in many museums.

## Gifts and Support (2020; names in bold are of donors whose gifts were received in the most recent quarter)

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Herron Foundation, Inc., International Paper

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### Gifts to the Libraries (including Research and Learning Center/Public Reference)

Sally Gettys, **Dr. Frederick W. Lange**, Henry Moy, **Ben Pickard**, **Lee O. Spruell**

### Gifts In-kind

Dwight Allen, **Peter Carl**, Janet Herron and Gamaliel Leyva, Brennan Hill, **Drs. Ernesto and Luisa Lira**, **Bill Mercer**, **Jack Moy**, Dustin Victor Ochoa, **Dr. Anne Mary Orr**, Paul Shepard, D.g. Smalling, **Jeffrey Voracek**, **Dr. Richard Weiss**, **Dian Jordan Werhane**, Bob West; Idabel Public Library,



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## Recent Acquisitions (April -June, 2020)

### Gifts to the Collections

Group of seven (7) decorated Tonalá-style ceramic effigy vessels (Jalisco, Mexico, late 20th century)

Gift of **Dr. Robert and Pamela Brooks** (OK)

Group of decorated **measuring spoons and other tools** for use in the west African gold trade, of brass/copper alloy (Ashanti peoples of Ghana, 20th century)  
Anonymous Gift



Measuring Spoons, (Ashanti), Ghana, West Africa



Jar, Mexico (Ca. 1960-1980)  
Tonalá, Mexico

Collection of forty eight (48) ethnographic and other works by *Huichol* (Nayarit, Mexico) and other native artisans including jewelry and other ornaments, yarn paintings, etc.; doll collection (108) displaying traditional ethnic garb from Latin American nations

Gift of **Lee O. Spruell** (LA)



Beaded Jaguar Effigy Head, (*Huichol*)  
Nayarit, Mexico



Beaded Bag, (*Huichol*), Nayarit, Mexico



Yarn Covered Gourd Bottle,  
(*Huichol*), Nayarit, Mexico



Lidded Box with Yarn Painting,  
(*Huichol*), Nayarit, Mexico



Decorated ceramic jar (Thailand or Burma, early 19th century)

Gift of **Ben Pickard/Pickard Gallery**



## Recent Acquisitions (April -June, 2020)

### Museum Purchases

Turned and decorated wood (hard maple) **bowl** by Nebraska artist **Steve Mawson**, inspired by mid-19th century Chumash Presentation Baskets  
Museum Purchase, with Support from **Janet Herron and Gamaliel Leyva (AZ)**

While this recent Museum purchase resembles a rare Chumash Presentation Basket, it is a turned and decorated piece of wood by Nebraska artist **Steve Mawson**. This very detailed work of art took approximately 8 months to produce. The attention to detail given by the artist is exceptional.



Decorated stoneware “Martaban” storage/shipping Jar for Use in trade along the “Maritime Silk Road” from eastern China, around southeast Asia (including the port of Marta Van, Burma) and India, to the Middle East; 17th -18th century  
*The Nathaniel and Lana Grey Collections Fund*



### Collections

This area of the Museum is home to approximately 34,000 artifacts not currently on display. Stored objects are viewable through glass walls.





# Museum of the Red River

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Quintus H. Herron Trust

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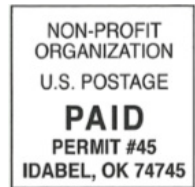
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**Idabel Museum Society, Inc.**



Idabel Museum Society, Inc  
812 E. Lincoln Road  
Idabel, OK 74745



Return Service  
Requested

Open 10 AM to 5 PM Tuesday through Saturday and 10 AM to 3 PM on Sunday.  
Closed Mondays and national holidays. **Admission is free.**



Located in Idabel, Oklahoma, the Museum of the Red River is the largest cultural institution in a 150-mile radius. Its mission is to preserve and celebrate the world's artistic heritage, while emphasizing the contributions made by native American groups. Its exhibition program includes temporary and permanent displays, most using objects drawn from its collections. The Museum also installs off-site exhibits throughout Southeast Oklahoma.

It offers dozens of educational programs each year, often in partnership with local organizations. It also houses a Public Reference Library and Research Library, which contain over 6000 volumes and printed materials illustrating cultural history. Hands-on, interactive learning opportunities are available year-round in the Holland and Sallie Webb Family Learning Center.

The Museum neither solicits nor accepts government funding. It is supported by earned and investment income and the ongoing support of individuals and organizations. Admission to the Museum is free, thanks to its Corporate Partners. To keep up with the latest Museum news, visit [www.museumoftheredriver.org](http://www.museumoftheredriver.org).

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