

Exhibit: *Precolumbian Lifeways*



Precolumbian Lifeways consists of 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 and South 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 is retired archaeologist and Precolumbian art specialist **Dr. Frederick W. Lange**. Explore a more in-depth look on page 3.



The Museum's *Festival of Trees* is scheduled to return this year. Entries will be separated into categories for judging. Contact Katy Smith at the Museum to reserve a spot for your organization's entry. Decorated trees will be on display in the front of the Museum through the Holidays in the Don and Mary Etta Herron Reception Hall. See the calendar of events on page 2 for more details.

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The Museum recently assumed operation of the gift shop located in McCurtain Memorial Hospital. More information can be found on page 1 under *Directions*.

Directions



Henry Moy

I hope everyone is well and remaining safe as we respond to the CoViD-19 pandemic. We are operating under enhanced sanitation and social distancing protocols, as well as encouraging mask use, making them available to all visitors. Staff wear them when outside their offices and meeting with the public. We have had to limit access to certain interactive areas where the necessary protocols cannot be consistently maintained, (e.g., our Holland and Sallie Webb Family Learning Center). Planned programs continue to be postponed or canceled. Events and activities sponsored by the Museum or other agencies, are organizing their space usage to accommodate social distancing.

We are grateful that the post-reopening “spike” in McCurtain County has been mitigated and reduced (as of this writing). Unfortunately, in view of reduced tourist travel and evolving public school policies, we have modified total visitor expectancy figures for 2020, and expect to do the same for 2021. Budget figures, particularly projected income, have also been adjusted in anticipation of the reduced revenues.

Books and Baubles, our venture in Hochatown, closed in September as new priorities came up. While successful as a promotional tool for the Museum in Idabel, the logistics of maintaining the retail space did not pass the “cost vs. benefit” analysis, particularly in these times. Subsequently, the Museum Store entered into an agreement to support the Gift Shop operation of **McCurtain Memorial Hospital**. “Down the road” (1/2 mile), it’s a location we can service easily, after a modest upgrade and “refresh” (the Shop was closed mid-March through September). It can continue to support the work of the Hospital Auxiliary as its volunteer membership and operation recovers, post-pandemic. The Gift Shop is adjacent to the Hospital’s main lobby-reception area where the Museum has had a “remote” display from its public education collections.

People



Jessica Valentine

Joining the staff is **Jessica Valentine**, assisting both outreach and communications and the collections/exhibitions areas. Jessica has just recently returned from Yangzhou China, and Shaoxing China where she spent six months in each location teaching English as a second language. Her previous experience includes being Digital Communications Specialist for the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

Congratulations to Keeper of Collections **Daniel L. Vick** and wife **Katie** on the birth of their daughter **Clara Lou** on August 19.

The Museum’s “*Fun with*” and art programs are still limiting numbers to help maintain social distancing guidelines. Responses to our activities have been met with enthusiasm.



Katie, Clara Lou, and Daniel L. Vick



Participant in the class *Bath Bombs*.



Students displaying their finished product in the *Bath Bombs* class.



Students participate in the *Fun with* activity *Aboriginal Dot Art*.



Gleny Beach's art classes attract many local artists.

In Remembrance

Condolences to Museum patron **Kama Koontz** and Family on the passing of her husband **Greg**, August 3, 2020. A Memorial Fund has been established in his name.

Condolences to the family of **Doris Perkins** (1931-2020), longtime supporter of arts and culture education, founder and officer of the McCurtain Gem and Mineral Club, and great friend of the Museum.

Calendar of Events (October-January 2021)

November 21, 9 am-3 pm

Beaded Earring Workshop - Guests ages 12 and up are invited to join local Choctaw artist **Eveline Steele** for a beaded jewelry class on November 21. Ms. Steele is a registered artist with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and her arts include traditional Choctaw basketry, clothing, and beaded earrings of various types. Attendees will learn how to bead a pair of hoop earrings with a dreamcatcher in the center. The class will break in the middle for students to grab lunch on their own. The cost for this class is \$55 (includes all materials) and is limited to the first 15 people to sign up.



November 24-January 2

Festival of Trees - Local organizations and businesses are invited to participate in the Museum's annual *Festival of Trees*. Participants can create a tree that best represents their organization to advertise and win "bragging rights." Forms may be picked up from the Museum and must be completed before the tree's installation the week of November 17th during normal business hours. Trees must be de-installed no later than January 9th, following the close of the festival on January 2nd. The *Festival of Trees* will be open for public viewing November 24th through January 2nd in the Don and Mary Etta Herron Reception Hall. Participation is free, and a full list of rules can be found on the Museum's website at museumoftheredriver.org/festivaloftrees.



December 11, 6 pm-8 pm

Fun with Suncatcher Ornaments - Our final "Fun with..." of the year invites guests to join the Programs staff for some crafty, holiday fun! Attendees will have the opportunity to create their own festive ornament from colorful tissue paper and holiday-themed silhouettes to be used to decorate a tree or even just in a window for the sun to shine through. Once completed, these ornaments will have a similar look to stained glass, an artistic expression which has been around since ca. 1120 B.C.



January 5, 4:30 pm-6 pm

Our Time Tuesday: Henna Scratch Art (New Members Event) Our Time Tuesdays is a new drop-in program for Museum members and their families. The first Tuesday of each month beginning in January, it will feature a different fun, multicultural craft designed for all ages. January's program centers on the Hindi art of henna, allowing participants to scratch henna designs into painted cardboard cutouts. Anyone who wishes to become a Member can join on the Museum's website at museumoftheredriver.org/support/membership



Calendar of Events (October-January 2021) Continued

January 16, 10 am-3 pm **Fun with Dream Catchers** - To kick off the Museum's "Fun with..." series for 2021, the Programs staff will be hosting a FREE drop-in event for visitors to come make their own dream catchers out of household materials like paper plates, yarn, and beads. In Native American folklore, traditional dream catchers were hung to protect a sleeping individual from negative dreams, while letting positive dreams slip through the center. These artifacts have been a renowned element of Native American culture for generations, and in some tribes they are held in the highest esteem for symbolizing strength and unity.



January 30, 3 pm-6 pm **Soaping with a Purpose** - Guests are invited to join local soap maker Angela Smith as she leads a class on soapmaking. Students will be discussing and creating soaps used for specific household jobs, such as soap for the kitchen, garden scrubs, laundry, and more, all while learning about the processes used by homesteaders for decades. Students must wear long sleeves, pants, and closed-toe shoes, and bring their own stick (immersion) blender. The cost for the class is \$50 and attendance is limited to the first ten to sign up.



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 **Cheryln Townsend**. Recent community programs received cash support from **Bailey Discount Building Supply (DeQueen)** and **Edward Jones, Inc. (Idabel)**.

Member Events (Mark your Calendar)

Membership is a rewarding way to experience all the Museum of the Red River has to offer. Delve into indigenous and native cultures from around the world and be part of a vibrant community that enjoys exclusive activities and special tours, events, and more! We are the largest cultural and collecting institution within a 150 mile radius! When you become a Member you help ensure the Museum remains accessible to the people of McCurtain County and beyond. From free monthly classes to free admission, our goal is to keep our doors open and reachable to visitors.

2021 Membership Events

January 9	Museum of the Red River Collections View: New Acquisitions (Associate and Tier II Members)
April 23	Museum of the Red River Annual Dinner (by invitation only)
June 6	Museum of the Red River Meet the Artists Event (Tiers I and II Members)
August 21	Museum of the Red River Curatorial & Director's Circle Luncheon
October 3	Dinner with Recent Acquisitions Preview (Tier II)
October 22	Museum of the Red River Annual Patrons Dinner (by invitation only)



Membership aids in providing access to the museum for school groups to tour.



Free and reduced registration fee's are a benefit of membership. Pictured is **Dr. Gleny Beach** conducting art classes.

Current and Upcoming Exhibits (through January, 2021)

Mary Bratton Curtis Gallery

Precolumbian Lifeways (September 19 - December 6)

Precolumbian Lifeways showcases over 80 artifacts from ancient cultures of Central and South America that range in time from around 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1500. Objects chosen for the exhibit illustrate the four ethnological themes of Domestic Life, Technology and Art, Beliefs, and Encounters as defined below:

Domestic Life: Household items meet basic needs (including food and shelter), and show people how to live, work, and play.

Technology and Art: People modify natural elements to improve their way of life, and to add beauty to their surroundings.

Beliefs: Ritual and ceremonial objects reinforce belief systems that sustain and strengthen communities.

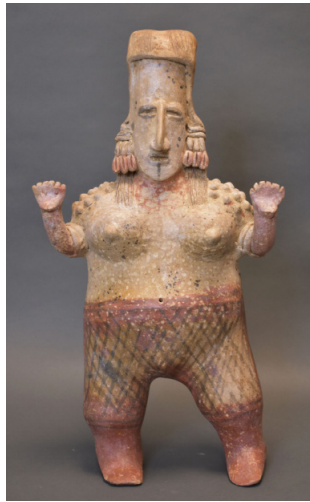
Encounters: Meeting strangers and engaging in trade can lead to changes within societies, which are often seen in their artifacts.



Male Effigy, ca. 300 B.C.- A.D. Ameca-Etztatlan Style, Jalisco, (Mexico); Loan, courtesy of R. Weiss



Tablet, A.D. 800-1200, Chucu area, (Southern Peru), Loan, Courtesy of R. Weiss



Female Effigy, 200 B.C.- A.D. 200, Jalisco (West Mexico); Loan, Courtesy of Drs. Ernesto and Luisa Lira



Storage Jar, A.D. 400-800, Marajo Island (Brazil), Loan, Courtesy of R. Weiss



Articulated Mask, A.D. 800-1400, Maya (Mexico), Gift of Ed Harris



Male (1) and Female (2) Effigies, ca. 200 B.C.- A.D. 200, Jalisco (West Mexico); Loan, courtesy of Drs. Ernesto and Luisa Lira, and R. Weiss



Wind Deity (Ehecatl) Effigy, A.D. 900-1200, Veracruz (Gulf Coast, Mexico); Gift of R. Weiss

Current and Upcoming Exhibits (through January, 2021) continued

Recent Acquisitions (December 15, 2020 - February 21, 2021)

The Museum's annual showcase of materials and objects obtained the past year. Included are works created by native peoples around the world and across time. Several hundred objects were acquired during the year, and this exhibit displays some of the highlights.



Compound Vessel,
2018, **Elias Pena**
(b.1976), Mata Ortiz
(Chihuahua, Mexico)
Museum Purchase



Female Effigy Sculpture,
ca. 13th Century,
Khmer (Cambodia)
(Gift of R. Weiss)

Nathaniel and Lana Grey Gallery

(in the Mary H. Herron Community Conference Center)

Mapping the World (November 3, 2020 – January 3, 2021)

Maps dating from the colonial period highlight new discoveries, fantastic assumptions, and historical information that changed as explorers and mapmakers learned more about the world around them. Maps are on loan from **Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art** in Shawnee, OK.

Molas (April 13 – August 8, 2021)

Molas are the decorative blouse panels created by women of the Kuna tribes living along the north and east coasts of Panama, particularly the San Blas Islands. The majority of molas are made through a "reverse-applique" process using multi-colored and patterned cloths, often embellished with embroidery. Included in the exhibit are selections from the Museum's **Virginia and James R. Tobin Collection**.



The Kingdom of Prester John, ca. 1588, Abraham Ortelius.
Loan, courtesy of the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art.

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**.



Projectile points are displayed under glass for visitors to view in the Gregory H. Perino Archaeological Study Area



Jar, ca. 1960, Conibo-Shipibo Peoples, Peru

Current and Upcoming Exhibits (through January, 2021) 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.



Casts of the skulls of *Tyrannosaurus rex* and *Acrocanthosaurus* are displayed in this area for comparison.

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 *Iatmul* peoples of New Guinea round out the artworks on view.



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



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

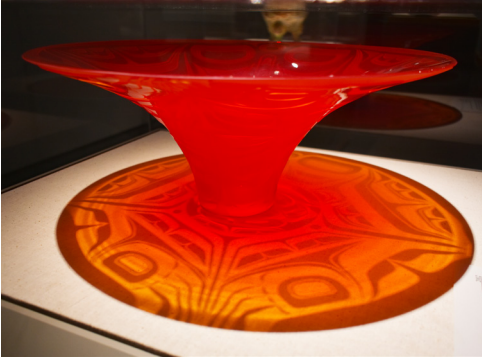


Raven Kachina (2003, 2019), **Marvin Oliver** (1946 - 2019)

Collections on View (October through January)

Founders Gallery

Inspired by Museum founders **Quintus and Mary Herron**, this exhibit space celebrates the Museum's permanent collections, highlighting some of the finest examples of material culture from all over the world available for public appreciation.



Tlingit Crest Hat, **Preston Singletary** (b. 1963),
Tlingit (Northwest Coast)



Jar, **Tsayutitsa**, ca. 1930, Zuni
Pueblo (New Mexico)



Jar, Mimbres Black-on-White type,
ca. 1000-1150, Mogollon (Southwest)

Collections

This area of the Museum is home to approximately 35,000 artifacts not currently on display.



Last Home of the Choctaw Nation, 1939, **Henry Louis Freund** (1905-1999). This mural depicts a Choctaw homestead in
McCurain County, Ca. 1880

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

Grants

Herron Foundation, Inc., International Paper

Membership (General Support, plus donors to other Museum funds, who are provided membership benefits at equivalent levels; active after October 1, 2020)

Tier II

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Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Greg Koontz: **Don and Mary Etta Herron**, **Janet Herron and Gamaliel Leyva**, **Pete and Katie Herron**, **Suzannah Herron**, **John and Sue Hinkel**, **Henry Moy**

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

Mark Beasley, **Fred Fagan**, **Maury Ford**, Sally Gettys, Dr. Frederick W. Lange, Henry Moy, **Ben Pickard**, Lee O. Spruell

Gifts In-kind

Dwight Allen, Peter Carl, **Marty Daniell**, Janet Herron and Gamaliel Leyva, Brennan Hill, Drs. Ernesto and Luisa Lira, **Bill Mercer**, Jack Moy, Dustin Victor Ochoa, Dr. Ann Mary Orr, **Vojai Reed**, **Julia Sewell**, Paul Shepard, d.g. smalling, Randy Tucker, **Jeffrey Voracek**, **Dr. Richard Weiss**, **Dian Jordan Werhane**, Bob West; **Complete Care Medical Supply Inc.**, Idabel Public Library

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Museum Affiliates: (A membership program for non-profit organizations providing significantly reduced fees for facilities usage) Idabel Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, Ducks Unlimited, Rotary Club of Idabel, McCurtain County Historical Society, McCurtain Memorial Hospital Foundation

Corporate Partners provide free admission to thousands of families each year. They also allow the Museum to offer programs at little to no cost to the public. Nonprofit organizations may join the Museum's Affiliate Program, which provides discounted access to the Museum's Conference Center. For more information on becoming a corporate partner visit our website at <https://www.museumoftheredriver.org/support/corporate-partners/>.

Recent Acquisitions

Gifts to the Collections

Chacara (or *kra*) bags (2) of hand-woven fiber (probably from wild pineapple *Aechmea magdalenae*), collected by the donor, from Nögbé-Bugle peoples (Panama) Gift of **Dr. Frederick Lange** (CA)



Collection of prehistoric ceramic sherds, collected mainly from family property in southern Arizona, Anonymous Gift

Museum Purchases

Dentalia Purse of elk horn; late 19th/early 20th century; used by native groups of Central California to store dentalia (fam: Dentaliida, *Antalis pretiosum* species preferred), a Pacific Ocean "tooth" or "tusk" shell used for decoration.



Museum of the Red River Building Fund Contributions 2016 – 2019

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Sponsors

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Herron Foundation, Inc.

Idabel Museum Society, Inc.



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



Return Service
Requested



Lonesome Pine, 2015, **Doris Perkins**,
(American, 1930-2020) Gift of the Artist

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.

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