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## 100 Years of Native American Culture: The James T. Bialac Native American Art Collection

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# The James T. Bialac Native American Art Collection

BY JONELLA FRANK

The walls of the OU College of Law are now adorned with over 300 pieces of indigenous art from the James T. Bialac Native American Art Collection. "Our rich tradition in Native American law is now reflected throughout our building so that our culture surrounds us," said Dean Joe Harroz.

The two-dimensional works from the collection have been installed in public areas of Coats Hall, in accordance with the wishes of the Arizona attorney who donated his multimillion-dollar collection of more than 4,000 pieces to the University of Oklahoma in 2010. In donating his collection, acquired over almost 50 years, Bialac's primary requirement was that the works be made available to as many people as possible to view and learn about Native American art. Artwork from the collection is also displayed in the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West and the Peggy and Charles Stephenson Cancer Center.

Bialac's collection, one of the most important private collections of Native American art in the country, spans 100 years of Native American culture in a wide variety of media. Included are works of major Native artists such as Fred Kabotie, Awa Tsih, Fritz Scholder, Joe Herrera, Allan Houser, Jerome Tiger, Tonita Pena, Helen Hardin, Pablita Velarde, George Morrison, Richard "Dick" West, Patrick DesJarlait and Pop Chalee.

Learn more about the artwork from the collection displayed in Coats Hall at <http://bit.ly/OU-NA-art>

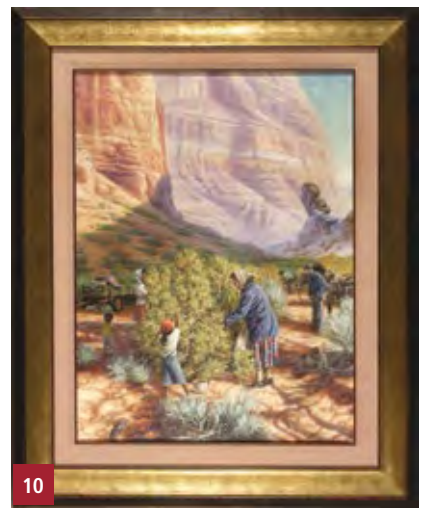


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1 Joe Maktima; U.S., Hopi/Laguna; **Design Spirit II** (1988); Prisma-color pencil – 22 ¼ x 21" 2 Gilbert Benjamin Atencio (Wah Peen); U.S., San Ildefonso Pueblo 1930-1995; **The Delight Makers in the Process of Making Medicine** (1964); Watercolor on paper – 17 ¼ x 36" 3 Beatién Yazz (Jimmy Toddy); U.S., Navajo b. 1928; **Tribal Counsel** (n.d.); Watercolor on paper – 22 ½ x 19" 4 Alex Seowtewa; U.S., Zuni b. 1933; **The Zuni Deity Bear Kachina's Spiritual Side of Identity Still Dwells With the Prehistoric Cultural Setting** (1996); Colored charcoal pencils – 23 x 20 ¼"



5 Spencer Lyons; U.S., Mission; *Madonna* (n.d.); Pastel – 21 ½ x 20” 6 Tommy E. Montoya (Than Tsay Taz); U.S., Ohkay Owingeh; *Pueblo Spirits* (1992); Watercolor on paper 7 Harrison Begay; U.S., Navajo 1917-2012; *Squaw Dance* (n.d.); Watercolor on paper – 36 x 44” 8 Ernest Whitehead; U.S., San Carlos-Apache c. 1945; *The Pubescent Girl* (1992); Acrylic – 21 x 17” 9 Jane McCarty Mauldin; U.S., Choctaw b. 1936; *Snow Princess* (1985); Mixed media – 13 ¾ x 11 ½” 10 James King; U.S., Navajo; *Juniper Berries Pickers* (n.d.); Oil on canvas