

THE SIMON ORTIZ AND LABRIOLA CENTER LECTURE  
ON INDIGENOUS LAND, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY

# Edgar Heap of Birds

## HEADS ABOVE GRASS: PROVOCATIVE NATIVE AMERICAN PUBLIC ART AND STUDIO PRACTICE

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014

Lecture 7:00 p.m.

Heard Museum, Steele Auditorium (2301 N Central Ave) | [www.heard.org](http://www.heard.org) | Phoenix, Arizona

Background monoprint by Edgar Heap of Birds

*This event is free of charge and open to the public.*

The artworks of Hock E Eye VI **Edgar Heap of Birds** (Cheyenne and Arapaho) include multi-disciplinary forms of public art messages, large scale drawings, Neuf Series acrylic paintings, prints, works in glass, and monumental porcelain enamel on steel outdoor sculpture.

Named a USA Ford Fellow in 2012, Professor Heap of Birds teaches in Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma, where he has been since 1988. His seminars explore issues of the contemporary artist on local, national, and international level.

Heap of Birds received his Master of Fine Arts from Tyler School of Art, Temple University (1979), his Bachelor of Fine Arts from The University of Kansas (1976) and has undertaken graduate studies at The Royal College of Art, London, England. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts

Degree from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, Massachusetts (2008). Heap of Birds has received grants and awards from The National Endowment for the Arts, Rockefeller Foundation, Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, Lila Wallace Foundation, Bonfil Stanton Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trust, and the Andy Warhol Foundation.

Heap of Birds' art work was chosen by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian as their entry towards the competition for the United States Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Biennale. He represented the Smithsonian with a major collateral public art project and blown glass works in Venice, June 2007 titled: "Most Serene Republics." The artist has exhibited his works across the world at venues from New York's Museum of Modern Art to the Grand Palais in Paris and the Bandung Institute of Technology in Indonesia.

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*MY WORK EXPLORES the relationship between Native American memory and non-Native historical accounts. I'm interested in the connections between indigenous peoples across the world, examining the past and taking a fresh look today at issues of social justice*

—EDGAR HEAP OF BIRDS



Photo/courtesy Edgar Heap of Birds

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*The Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community at Arizona State University brings notable scholars and speakers to Arizona for public lectures twice per year. These speakers address topics and issues across disciplines in the arts, humanities, sciences, and politics. Underscoring Indigenous American experiences and perspectives, this series seeks to create and celebrate knowledge that evolves from an inclusive Indigenous worldview and that is applicable to all walks of life.*

Sponsored by Arizona State University's American Indian Policy Institute; American Indian Studies Program; Department of English; School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies; Women and Gender Studies in the School of Social Transformation (all units in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences); Indian Legal Program in the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law; School of Art in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts; and Labriola National American Indian Data Center; with tremendous support from the Heard Museum.