



# JRB ART AT THE ELMS

Pasco Arts District

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This month JRB Art at The Elms is featuring the bronze sculptures of Paul Moore and David Phelps, both of whom currently live and work in Oklahoma. Paul's work is influenced by the history of the Great American West and his Native American Heritage. David's work is strongly tied to his memories, experiences, and feelings from having grown up on a family farm in Robert's Island, California. The following works selected by the Gallery are strong examples of each artist's skill and aesthetic.

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## PAUL MOORE

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Paul Moore is a fifth generation Oklahoman and a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. In the past 40 years, he has sculpted more than 150 commissions for numerous municipal, corporate, private, and international collections...[Read More](#)

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Paul Moore, "The Inspiration of the Storyteller,"  
2006, Edition 25, Bronze,  
21 x 14 x 15 in., \$8,600

"The Inspiration of the Storyteller" was inspired by the famous Chickasaw storyteller Te Ata and the folklore and mythology of the Native American People. She is sitting among many of the animals that are the center and inspiration of many of the stories. The tortoise and the hare story is exactly the same as the one told in Greek mythology. The owl is the bearer of death and bad news, the crow is the prankster and the beaver is the ideology of hard work and prosperity. I placed the ermine in the sculpture because it is the lead character in one of my favorite Blackfoot stories called "How the Ermine got its Color." Te Ata, like all storytellers, passed on the wisdom of the Peoples to the next generation preparing them for the future. She also shared these stories, around the world, to a vast array of individuals from children to Heads of State.



Paul Moore, "Young San Felipe Green Corn  
Dancer," 2017, Bronze, Edition 8,  
16 1/2 x 9 1/2 x 7 in., \$2,400

The Green Corn Dance is held by many Native American Peoples throughout the United States. It is an annual ceremony held at the beginning of the corn harvest or ripening of the corn crop. Each community has its own significance and social structure to this spiritual event, but most ceremonies are for giving praise and thanksgiving to God for providing them with the food that sustains them throughout the year. They also are for purification, restoring balance and making of new beginnings.

The young dancer, in the sculpture, is wearing the traditional tableta (headdress) and clothing of the San Felipe pueblo that is worn during this special event.

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**DAVID PHELPS**



**David Phelps** is a critically acclaimed, internationally collected contemporary sculptor. Phelps creates large and small scale bronze sculpture for galleries and public art commissions...[Read More](#)

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David Phelps, "Musings," 2005, Bronze, Edition 3 of 39, 23 x 28 x 16 in., \$4,600

In 1982 Phelps began exploring formal and psychological aspects of breaking the ground plane with his figurative sculptures. His early work was strongly tied to his memories, experiences, and feelings having grown up on a family farm on Roberts Island, California. Threatened with floods, drought, and solitude as a youth directed his aesthetic development as an adult. The early work broke the ground plane; Large scale figures appear to emerge from the ground.

Musings continues this exploration and takes it one step farther. With this piece, Phelps creates the illusion of two different surfaces; solid and liquid. The figure appears to sit on a solid surface while one leg hangs in the water; and one hand seems to be dipping into the surface, testing the water.



David Phelps, "American Beauty," 2019, Bronze, Edition 35, 9 x 40 x 12 in., \$5,800

American Beauty is the result of a slow evolution of images beginning with the double life size mixed media sculpture that David Phelps created for his Thesis Exhibition at the University of Oklahoma in 1984. The original Bather was a somewhat surreal, ironic self-portrait in a sinking bathtub with a surface that looked like dried, cracked mud. This was part of a series of self portraits that all referred stoically back to life on the farm...[Read More](#)

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