



# CELEBRATING ALLAN HOUSER

AN OKLAHOMA PERSPECTIVE



## *Allan Houser Drawings: The Centennial Exhibition* Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Norman March 8 - May 18, 2014

Allan Houser grew up drawing while listening to his father's stories about the history of his Chiricahua Apache ancestors. Memories of these stories about battles, buffalo hunts, and traditional ceremonies provided inspiration for Houser's art throughout his life.

Though Houser is best known for his sculptures, drawings were also a significant part of his work. *Apache Father and Son* is a drawing Houser created around 1992 using oil sticks. Oil sticks are made by compressing wax and oil pigments until they are in a solid form, similar to a crayon. Unlike oil paints, the pigment in oil sticks dries within 24 hours. The medium does not require brushes or solvents, which makes it easily portable and ideal for drawing and sketching. *Apache Father and Son* emphasizes the close bond between the two generations, and may recall Houser's memories of time spent listening to his father's stories.



Allan Houser  
U.S., Chiricahua Apache, 1914-1994  
*Apache Father and Son*  
c. 1992  
Oil stick  
28 x 23 inches  
Loan courtesy of Allan Houser, Inc.

## Activity

Use the exercises below to consider and develop your own interpretation of *Apache Father and Son*.

### Describe and Analyze

- How would you describe the lines in the drawing of *Apache Father and Son*?
- What types of colors do you see in the drawing? Has Houser used a particular type of color scheme?
- How has Houser created the illusion of three-dimensional form?
- How do you think Houser used the oil stick to create texture?
- What techniques has Houser used to give an illusion of space in the drawing?
- What types of shape do you see in the drawing? Are they mostly organic or geometric?
- Why do you think Houser chose to use a smaller scale for the son than the father?

### Respond

- List five words you think of when looking at this drawing.
- What emotions does the drawing evoke in you?
- Does this drawing make you think of any stories you have heard?
- Does this drawing make you think of any experiences you have had?
- What do you think the father and son are looking at?

### Connect

- Based on the observations you have made, write a short story or a poem about what you imagine is happening in this drawing.