



NEWS ADVISORY

The Spirit of Pacific Western Traders Exhibition Comes to Chico's Museum of Northern California Art

In the Spirit of Henry Azbill, Mechoopda Elder/Historian, 1899-1973

WHAT: In collaboration with the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria and the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, *The Spirit of Pacific Western Traders: California Contemporary Native Arts Now and Then* exhibition will be featured at the Museum of Northern California Art (**monca**) from December 2, 2021, through January 23, 2022.

The Spirit of Pacific Western Traders, curated by Meyo Murrufu and Jennifer Bates, showcases artists at the forefront of today's California cultural arts.

The exhibition will honor the spirit of Henry Azbill, Mechoopda Tribal Elder and Historian (1899-1973), who is widely known throughout the Chico community for his prolific public outreach and mentoring.

"We are grateful to have the opportunity to honor Henry Azbill's legacy in this spectacular way," said Arlene Ward, Mechoopda Tribal Elder and Historian. "Henry was tremendously impactful in influencing the traditional cultural revival of the Mechoopda people and continues to inspire our people today, especially our youth. This exhibition is a true reflection of the spirit of Henry and his unwavering commitment to preserving our culture."

The exhibition's opening reception will be held on Friday, December 3 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., where there will be a welcome and blessing by Mechoopda Tribal Chairman Dennis Ramirez. The reception will also feature traditional tribal singers and refreshments.

Extended Schedule of Events:

Friday, December 3

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Opening Reception

monca

Saturday, December 11

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Indian Art Market

monca

Sunday, December 19

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Artists Conversations via Zoom

The PWT Project

Saturday, January 8

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Artists Talk Live

In the Spirit of Henry Azbill:

Influencing the Artists' Journeys

Sunday, January 23

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Closing Reception

monca

**Interviews are available in advance of the exhibition opening and opening reception.*

WHEN: **Exhibition Dates:** December 2 – January 23
Opening Reception: December 3 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: **The Museum of Northern California Art (monca)**
900 Esplanade, Chico, CA 95926

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