

Art in California



Coyote Leaves the REZ



A gift from California



California born artist Harry Fonseca, who is of Nisenan Maidu, Hawaiian and Portuguese ancestry has had a long and successful career as a painter and printmaker. In the early years of his career Fonseca dealt primarily with the subject matter of his California Indian Heritage, the Maidu.

Focused mainly on figurative images of the traditional dancers, he uses design elements from their material culture in his work such as the baskets, acorns and shell jewelry.

During the 70's his name became synonymous with coyote the trickster. His coyote series depicts the characters part animal part human in both unusual and ordinary life roles, from the flamboyant "Coyote Woman" with spiked heels and fur to the ordinary "Bad Dog" a dude wearing sneakers and shades to the more traditional "Chief with Cigars" wearing a headdress.

Although enormously successful with this work Fonseca pushed on stretching and exploring his talent culminating into the Stone Poem series. This series was influenced by the prehistoric petroglyphs of California and the South West. Moving and powerful he uses this image to tell the creation story of the Maidu.

Currently, Fonseca is creating scenes of Winter and Spring using the drip method to imbue his canvases with layer upon layer of paint bursting with color. He did say however, that he believes coyote is back. He has recently created large canvases of the male and female coyote trying their luck at the slot machines.



Maidu Creation Story

Harry Fonseca art is currently on display at Vigil's Collections, Broad St., Nevada City 530.265.5790