



## NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT May 24, 2007

Institute of American Indian Arts  
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### IAIA MUSEUM ANNOUNCES OPENING OF MAJOR RETROSPECTIVE

who: Norval Morrisseau – Shaman Artist  
what: Traveling Exhibition from the National Gallery of Canada  
when: June 15 – Sept. 3; Opening Reception August 15, 5 – 7 p.m.  
where: IAIA Museum, 108 Cathedral Place, Santa Fe  
cost/info: Regular museum admission / (505) 983-1777

As he approaches his 50<sup>th</sup> year of widespread acclaim and international recognition for changing the ground rules by which Canada's First Nations artists are perceived, Norval Morrisseau has turned his attention southward.

Known as one of the founders of a contemporary art movement tsunami that's swept hundreds of First Nations (Canada's commonly used descriptor for Native people) artists to fame, one of the few places where Norval Morrisseau is under-recognized has been the United States.

But with the National Gallery of Canada overseeing the organization and circulation of this stunning, retrospective exhibition encompassing nearly 50 of the artist's drawings, paintings, and painted objects, there's nothing in the way of stopping what portends to be an explosion of new interest in Norval Morrisseau's contributions to the global contemporary art movement.

These vividly hued works of art trace the artist's trajectory through a life filled with transformations both spiritual and personal. Drawing upon his Ojibwa heritage as well as the experiences he encountered in his evolution as a creative genius, Norval Morrisseau discovered ways to honor the Anishnaabe spirituality of his Tribe while informing the world of his intensely personal creative vision.

#### Attachments

- 1) Untitled (Thunderbird), c. 1960; Acrylic on paper, 76.84 x 158.12 cm.
- 2) Artist and Shaman Between Two Worlds, c. 1980; Acrylic on canvas, 172 x 282 cm.
- 3) Man Changing into Thunderbird, 1977; Acrylic on canvas, 153.5 x 125.7 cm.

Credit Line for Images 1, 2 & 3: National Gallery of Canada, © Norval Morrisseau

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The IAIA Museum is the leading exhibiting institution for contemporary Native and Indigenous art from North America, Alaska and Hawaii. Located in downtown Santa Fe at 108 Cathedral Place, just one block from the city's historic Plaza, the IAIA Museum is open from Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm and Sunday from noon to 5pm. Closed for major holidays. Admission is free to Native American, Alaska Native, Canadian First Nations and Native Hawaiian peoples. Adult admission is \$5. Seniors, students and New Mexico resident admission is \$2.50. Youth admission for ages 16 and younger is free. Sunday admission for New Mexico residents with valid identification is free. For additional IAIA Museum information visit [www.iaiamuseum.org](http://www.iaiamuseum.org) or call the Museum Information Line at 505-983-1777.

## Northern Light: Norval Morrisseau's Defiant Brilliance

In 1972, as a young artist living in Canada, I joined with six of **Canada's most influential Native artists (Norval Morrisseau, Daphne Odjig, Alex Janvier, Jackson Beardy, Carl Ray, and Eddie Cobiness)** to create **Professional Native Artists Inc.**, which today is renowned as the **Native Group of Seven**. Thirty-five years later, in my capacity as curator of the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum, it is with great *honor* and excitement that I **welcome my friend Norval Morrisseau to Santa Fe.**

**The IAIA Museum is proud to present this premiere United States viewing of *Norval Morrisseau : Shaman Artist***, a traveling exhibition organized by the National Gallery of Canada and curated by Greg Hill. This exhibition marks the first time the National Gallery of Canada has honored a First Nations artist with a solo exhibition, an accolade attesting to Norval Morrisseau's stature **among Canada's preeminent artists.**

In bringing this exhibition to the Southwest we share with our audience a truly unique and original artist whose style established the Anishnaabe school and influenced hundreds of younger artists. Internationally recognized as a master artist, Norval Morrisseau's 1969 exhibition in the south of France was attended by Picasso and Marc Chagall.

I am especially indebted to curator Greg Hill and the National Gallery of Canada *for their extraordinary efforts in helping to bring this ground breaking* exhibition to the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum. My gratitude is also extended to Mr. Alain Dudoit, Canada's Consul General in Los Angeles. Finally, I thank the Kinsman Robinson Galleries of Toronto for their important support of *Norval Morrisseau : Shaman Artist*.

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