



MUSEUM of
NORTHERN
ARIZONA

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Artist Hopid Unveiled: Museum of Northern Arizona highlights innovative Hopi collective in new exhibit series

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The Museum of Northern Arizona proudly presents “Artist Hopid Unveiled,” a new exhibition series highlighting work from the groundbreaking collective formed in 1973 by celebrated Hopi artists Michael Kabotie, Delbridge Honanie, Terrance Talaswaima, Neil David Sr. and Milland Lomakema.

The exhibition opens May 16 and appears through April 2027, displaying a range of works in three separate thematic installations: “Tending the Source,” “Ancestral Echoes,” and “Enduring Images.” The art comes from the museum’s extensive collection of Artist Hopid works, including recent acquisitions.

Artist Hopid spoke intentionally to non-Hopi audiences by blending traditional Hopi values and imagery—drawn from farming, Katsina figures, ancestral forms and everyday life—with contemporary visual styles. Their art is visually dynamic, often humorous, and deeply rooted in Hopi cultural knowledge.

Among their objectives was “to experience and test new ideas and techniques in art using traditional Hopi designs and concepts,” said Alan Petersen, the museum’s fine art curator, who has co-curated the series with Kelley Hays-Gilpin, MNA curator of anthropology.

“These artists were steeped in ancient cultural knowledge but not the least bit afraid to try new things,” said Hays-Gilpin. “They worked hard to balance the changes in the world around them while staying grounded in tradition.”

Ancestral art forms, kiva mural paintings, pottery, textiles, petroglyphs, the Santa Fe Indian School style painting, as well as contemporary cubism, surrealism, psychedelia and color field painting, were among the cultural and artistic influences for Artist Hopid.

In a 2006 article in the museum’s *Plateau* journal, Kabotie and Honanie wrote about the importance of attaining balance and exploring new styles of expression.

“We wanted Hopi and non-Hopi to know that our worldview is about seeing that everything is connected and that no part is unimportant,” they wrote. They pointed to a “new visual language,” which included reinterpreting and experimenting with old designs while putting a “new twist on them.”

In addition to individual works by Artist Hopid, the Museum of Northern Arizona holds in its collection a large six-panel mural and two three-panel murals by Kabotie and Honanie. Created in 2001, the “Journey of the Human Spirit” and “Pottery Mound” murals reflect the Hopi way of life, ancestral imagery, spiritual cycles, and historical and contemporary influences on Hopi culture. Although not a part of the current exhibit, the murals have been displayed in past shows, and visitors may see them by reserving a spot on the museum’s monthly public tour of its Easton Collection Center.

“Artist Hopid Unveiled” is supported in part by a grant from the Terra Foundation for American Art. The exhibit appears in the Courtyard Gallery of the Museum of Northern Arizona May 16, 2026, through April 30, 2027.

About the Museum of Northern Arizona

Founded in 1928, the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) preserves and celebrates the natural and cultural heritage of the Colorado Plateau. Through its exhibitions, educational programs, research, and community events, the museum fosters a deeper understanding of the region’s art, science and people. Located near the foot of the San Francisco Peaks at 3101 N. Fort Valley Road in Flagstaff, the museum is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about exhibitions and programs, visit musnaz.org.