**Paul Moore**

Paul Moore is an internationally known artist with work in the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery and the U.S. Capitol Collection, both in Washington, D.C.; the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston, Massachusetts; Brookgreen Gardens, Murrells Inlet, South Carolina; and numerous museum, corporate, municipal, and private collections worldwide. Moore is arguably the most prolific sculptor of his generation. He is in constant demand for portrait and monumental commissions, sculpting more than 157 commissions over the past 44 years. One of those commissions was the *Centennial Land Run Monument* in Oklahoma City, which was completed in December 2019. This massive monument, stretching over 360 feet, consists of 45 life-and-a-half elements and took 20 years to complete.

Moore is a fifth-generation Oklahoman and a citizen of the Muscogee Nation. His grandfather grew up next-door to Quanah Parker, where Quanah’s youngest wife, Tonarcy, made him baby moccasins at his birth. Over the years, Quanah gave his grandfather many gifts, including a bear claw necklace and a horsehair rope. Moore grew up on stories of his relatives taking part in Oklahoma’s major historical events, including the Trail of Tears and the Chisholm Trail. These stories, as well as a life-changing visit when he was young to what was then the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, influenced and inspired his decision to become a sculptor.

In 2020 the National Sculpture Society gave Moore its highest award, the Medal of Honor for his contribution to American sculpture. During the Society’s 127 years of existence, he is only the 28th sculptor to receive the Medal of Honor. Other notable recipients have included Daniel Chester French, James Earle Fraser, Paul Manship, Malvina Hoffman, C. Paul Jennewein, Donald De Lue, Stanley Bleifeld, and Neil Estern. Also in 2020, his sculpture *The Procession* won the Briscoe Museum Purchase Award and the James Bowie Award for Sculpture at the Briscoe Western Art Museum’s *Night of the Artists* in San Antonio, Texas.

In 2019, he won the prestigious *Prix de West* Purchase Award and the Robert Lougheed Memorial Award at the 47th Annual *Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition & Sale* at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. He was the first artist living in Oklahoma to receive these awards. In 2018 he won an Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for a documentary about him and his career for OETA/PBS, and in 2013 he won the Governor’s Arts Award from the Oklahoma Arts Council.

In 2013 Moore installed and unveiled a 10-foot sculpture of two Medal of Honor recipients, Michael Thornton and Thomas Norris, for the National Navy Underwater Demolition Team and Seal Museum at Fort Pierce, Florida, to honor the six Navy Seals who received the Medal of Honor. This piece was commissioned by Ross Perot in addition to a 10-foot figure of General Wayne Downing for the newly renamed General Wayne A. Downing Airport in Peoria, Illinois; a 10-foot figure of General Hugh Shelton for the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina; and two 7-foot figures consisting of General William Yarborough and President John F. Kennedy for the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 2013 he also completed a 10-foot figure of President David L. Boren and in 2015 completed a 10-foot figure of Coach Bob Stoops for the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma. In addition to these, Moore has sculpted more than 50 other pieces for the University, including the iconic *Seed Sower* that graces all three campuses. For the past 24 years, he has also been the artist-in-residence and professor of figurative sculpture for Oklahoma University. In 2021 he announced his retirement from teaching.

Moore’s portrait bust of Speaker of the House Carl Albert was installed into the U.S. Capitol Collection / U.S. House of Representatives on March 3, 2004, in Statuary Hall, United States Capitol, Washington, D.C. This was the seventh Speaker of the House bust to be accepted into the U.S. Capitol’s collection, and Moore was the first Oklahoma sculptor to have his work accepted into this prestigious collection. Also in 2004, his monument to the Blackhawk helicopter crews of the 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, United States Army who lost their lives at the beginning of the Iraq War was installed and unveiled in Giebelstadt, Germany.

In 2001 he completed a 10-foot figure of the greatest catcher in baseball history, Johnny Bench, for the Bricktown Ballpark in Oklahoma City. One of his largest sculptures, *On the Chisholm Trail,* a monument to the American cowboy, was installed and unveiled in 1998. This massive sculpture, measuring 34 feet long by 11 feet high by 7 feet wide, took an exhausting five years of work, from the conception of the maquette to the unveiling of the bronze at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, Duncan, Oklahoma. In 1996, his portrait of the great animator Chuck Jones was accepted in the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., along with works by Andy Warhol, Linda McCartney, Marguerite Zorach, and Stanley Meltzoff.

Moore is a Fellow of the National Sculpture Society in New York and an Emeritus Member of Cowboy Artists of America (CAA). In his nine years as an active member of CAA he won 16 awards at their annual exhibition, including four Best of Show Awards; four Gold Medals and five Silver Medals in sculpture; the Stetson Award; and two Ray Swanson Awards.

Moore is considered by many as one of the most creative and innovative sculptors in Western art. His work is constantly evolving, pushing the envelope, and changing the way we look at Western art.

**941 words**