

Harry Fonseca, Nisenan Maidu/Hawaiian/Portuguese (1946-2006)

- Received posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (2007)
- Received Allan Houser Memorial Award in Santa Fe, NM (2004)
- Participated in Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian's contemporary exhibition series *Continuum 12* (2003)

Harry Fonseca was born in Sacramento, California, where his family had lived for four generations. He studied briefly at Sacramento City College and Cal State University, Sacramento, under fellow Maidu painter Frank LaPena (Maidu/Wintu). While working on his final project, he was given a creation story by his uncle, Henry Azbill. This story led Fonseca to more deeply explore and examine his Native heritage. Fonseca worked with a variety of media, including oil, acrylic, pen and ink, lithography, aquatint, sculpture, and mixed media. His pieces range from narrative to highly abstract, with the themes and styles evolving throughout his career. While his works underwent a series of transformations, Fonseca's openness to new inspirations and influences remained constant. Fonseca is best known for his depiction of Coyote, the iconic trickster figure in many Native communities across the continent. Coyote is known as a transformer and as a symbol of balance, adaptability, and survival. Fonseca placed the timeless trickster Coyote in contemporary settings, demonstrating his resilience and resonance to Native cultures today.

<http://www.harryfonseca.com>