

# Oscar Howe

Oscar Howe (***Mazuha Hokshina*** or "Trader Boy") born May 15, 1915 in Joe Creek, South Dakota was a Yanktonai Dakota artist in South Dakota. Howe was born on Crow Creek Sioux Reservation and belonged to the Yanktonai band of Dakota people.



Howe's artistic talent was recognized at a young age as he studied at the Studio of Santa Fe Indian school from 1933- 1938. In 1940 Howe was sent by the South Dakota artists project to Fort Sill Indian Art Center in Lawton, Oklahoma to study mural painting techniques with Olle Nord Mack. After working for several years and serving in WWII, Howe went to college on the GI bill, earning his B.A degree at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell in 1952. Howe met his wife Heidi in Germany while serving overseas during World War II.

Early on he shared similar art work style to the Santa Fe Indian School. As time passed, he developed his own distinctive style. He started on with traditional Sioux "straight-line" painting, based on hide and later ledger paintings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1930's, he painted a set of murals for the municipal auditorium in Mobridge and a mural within the dome of the Carnegie library, now known as the Carnegie Resource center here in Mitchell, South Dakota. Howe worked as an art instructor in Pierre, South Dakota in 1939. From 1948 to 1971, he designed the murals outside The World's Only Corn Palace. After his long career of designing the murals for the Corn



"Dance of the Heyoka" (1954) is one of Howe's power-packed compositions.



"Peace Offering" a permanent mural inside the World's Only Corn Palace.

Palace, he became a professor at the University of South Dakota, in Vermillion, South Dakota. Over his 41-year career, Oscar Howe won numerous awards, including grand and first prizes. His works were displayed all over the world, including Paris, France and London, England, with more than 50 solo shows. Oscar Howe died October 7, 1983 (age 68).