



PAINTINGS BY MIRAC CREEPINGBEAR



COVER: PROMISE. 1981. Acrylic on canvas. 24" x 20".

1. SOUTHERN PLAINS. 1981. Acrylic on canvas, 18" x 24".
2. PAU DAU (Buffalo). 1981. Acrylic on canvas, 24" x 36".
3. GOURD DANCERS. 1976. Tempera on mat-board, 30" x 21½".
4. BEGINNING. 1981. Acrylic on canvas, 24" x 36".

“ . . . In my work I try to show the strength and character of our people, how we live now. The feeling comes from the heart and my work reflects my feelings of pride for my people. I feel that I am recording history, one person's view about who we are, the positive as well as the negative aspects of Indian culture . . . ”

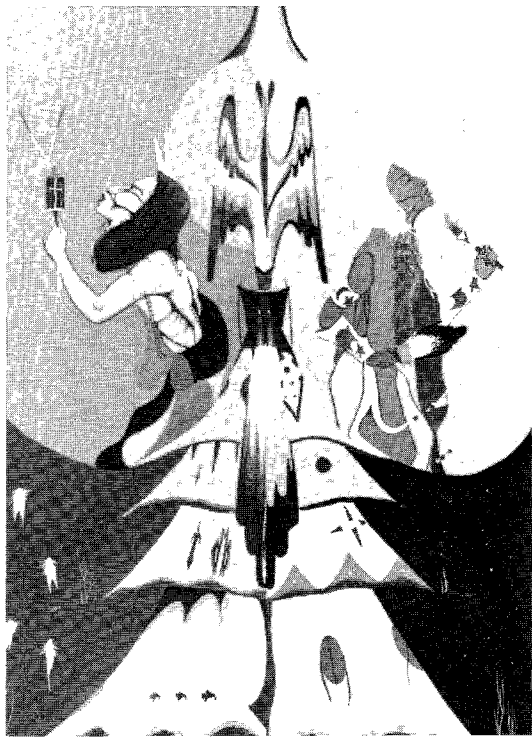
Mirac Creepingbear
Carnegie, Oklahoma



1.



2.



3.



4.



PAINTINGS BY MIRAC CREEPINGBEAR

An Exhibition, March 29 - April 30, 1981

Mirac Creepingbear, of Kiowa and Pawnee/Arapaho Indian descent, was born on September 8, 1947 in Lawton, Oklahoma. Creepingbear received his formal education at Pawnee Indian School in Pawnee, Oklahoma and in the public school system of Carnegie, Oklahoma. Although his formal education is not extensive or as Creepingbear so aptly states, ". . . I never broke 10th grade . . .," nevertheless he has developed his artistic talents well and has emerged as one of the outstanding Native American artists of today.

Much of Creepingbear's talents have been enhanced by his unusually strong cultural awareness. Pointing out that he was raised in two Indian communities, Carnegie and Pawnee, Oklahoma, he states that he maintains close ties with both sides of his family. Creepingbear feels that the position of the Native American is unique in today's society and he is anxious to record the contemporary life of his people.

Admitting that he was somewhat influenced by art schools such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico; — Creepingbear is nonetheless a totally self-taught artist. Receiving encouragement from other Native American artists, Creepingbear has indicated that he was particularly inspired by the late Kiowa Indian artist, Herman Toppah, whose paintings he particularly admired.

While Creepingbear has been drawing since he was very young, it was not until 1974 that he started painting with serious intent, setting out to develop his artistic skills well enough to support his family. Since 1974, Creepingbear has devoted full-time to pursuing his artistic career. Seeking an audience for his work, Creepingbear started contacting galleries in California where a dealer in Arcadia ran an ad in **American Indian Art** featuring one of Creepingbear's paintings. In 1978, Creepingbear's work was featured in a one-man show presented by the Ni-Wo-Di-Hi Galleries in Austin, Texas. In 1979, Creepingbear received Honorable Mention for his work at the 34th Annual American Indian Artists Exhibition at Philbrook Art Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His work has been included in the Art From the Earth exhibitions presented in 1979 and 1980 by The Galleria in Norman, Oklahoma. In 1980, Creepingbear's work was displayed at the Gallup Ceremonials in Gallup, New Mexico where he received first place and a special award. His paintings have also been exhibited at the Snakebird Gallery in Little Rock, Arkansas. This Spring, one of Creepingbear's paintings will be included in a premiere exhibition presented by the Turtle culture center in Niagara Falls, New York.

Mirac Creepingbear's paintings reveal one of the darkest palettes ever utilized by a Native American artist. In examining his work, it is apparent that the artist has observed and has considerable respect for the works of the old European masters such as Rembrandt as well as American artists of the West including Charlie Russell and Frederic Remington. Although he started out painting with tempera in a flat, two-dimensional style (see illustration #3 inside), Creepingbear has today progressed to the use of acrylics, oils and watercolor. Stating that he paints very quickly, he likes to "move paint" and he does a lot of quick, impressionistic studies of various subjects. The artist feels that his mastery and use of watercolors helps to keep his style loose and flowing. He points out that while his present style is not traditional, his subject matter usually deals with tradition.

The proud father of five; — including Ronnie, Traci, Lisa, Kelli and Mirac J.; — Mirac Creepingbear resides with his wife, Janice, and family in Carnegie, Oklahoma.

This Special Exhibition, organized by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board's Southern Plains Indian Museum and Crafts Center, is the first exclusive showing of recent paintings by Mirac Creepingbear.

Prices of paintings for sale may be obtained upon request from the Oklahoma Indian Arts and Crafts Cooperative, an Indian-owned and operated arts and crafts enterprise housed in the Southern Plains Indian Museum and Crafts Center. The Cooperative's address is Post Office Box 966, Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005. Telephone: Area Code: 405-247-3486.

SOUTHERN PLAINS INDIAN MUSEUM AND CRAFTS CENTER, HIGHWAY 62 EAST, ANADARKO, OKLAHOMA