

Teaching with *The Guardian* by Enoch Kelly Haney



This document is designed to help teachers present, discuss, and teach about Oklahoma history and art literacy through the use of this work of art. The information and exercises here will aid in understanding and learning from this artwork.

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First Analysis and Criticism

The steps below may be used for group discussion or individual written work.

Before beginning the steps, take two minutes to study the artwork. Look at all the details and subject matter. After studying the artwork in silence, follow these steps:

Describe:

Be specific and descriptive. List only the facts about the objects in the painting or sculpture.

- What things are in the artwork?
- What is happening?
- List what you see (people, animals, clothing, environment, objects, etc.).

Analyze:

- How are the elements of art – line, shape, form, texture, space, and value used?
- How are the principles of design – unity, pattern, rhythm, variety, balance, emphasis, and proportion used?

Interpretation:

Make initial, reasonable inferences.

- What do you think is happening in the artwork?
- Who is doing what?
- What do you think the artist is trying to say to the viewer?

Evaluate:

Express your opinion.

- What do you think about the artwork?
- Is it important?
- How does it help you understand the past?
- Do you like it? Why or why not?

Overview of the Artwork

Enoch Kelly Haney's colossal statue *The Guardian* stands prominently atop the Oklahoma State Capitol dome where it was lifted on June 7, 2002. The 17 feet tall statue holds a staff that reaches 22 feet into the sky. This monumental project was completed in ten months and demanded 4,000 pounds of bronze, which was cast in 50 sections. Haney's own family served as models for this historic piece. Haney's son William and Haney's grandson, Enoch, inspired the guardian's eyes and cheeks respectively. Inside the rotunda, visitors can view a nine-foot replica of *The Guardian*, which was donated by Nancy Payne Ellis and her children.

During the dedication, Senator Haney gave a voice to the guardian, revealing the representation of all Oklahomans through the statue. The Guardian embodies the diversity within the proud and strong population of Oklahoma while serving as a reminder of our tumultuous times. The sculpture signifies the thousand of Native Americans that were forced from their homes during the 1800s and the sons and daughters that survived the devastating Dust Bowl. The towering statue exemplifies the valor of Oklahomans and their ability to overcome the most horrific catastrophes such as the bombing at the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City. *The Guardian* is a reminder that just below him within the halls of our grand Capitol, the true guardians of Oklahoma, our legislators, are working everyday to improve this already magnificent state.

About the Artist

Enoch Kelly Haney Truly a modern-day renaissance man, Enoch Kelly Haney's talents span two separate spheres - namely politics and art. Born on November 12, 1940 to William Woodrow and Hattie Louise Haney, Enoch grew up in Seminole, Oklahoma. The son of a full blood Seminole and Creek Indian, Haney's own grandfather was chief of the Seminole Tribe in the 1940s.

Haney's interest in Indian people is evident in his art, as he puts a great amount of energy into the research and documentation of Native American culture and traditions. His work is exacting in its detail and representation of native peoples. Haney received his Associate of Arts degree from Bacone College, and his Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts from Oklahoma City University.

In 1962 he was honored with the Rockefeller Foundation Scholarship at the University of Arizona. Haney was designated as the Master Artist of the Five Civilized Tribes in 1975; he also was awarded a Governor's Art Award, Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Indian Heritage Award. Along with his work as an artist, Haney has served terms in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, as well as the Senate.

Dedication Speech by Enoch Kelly Haney, Seminole-Creek Master Artist

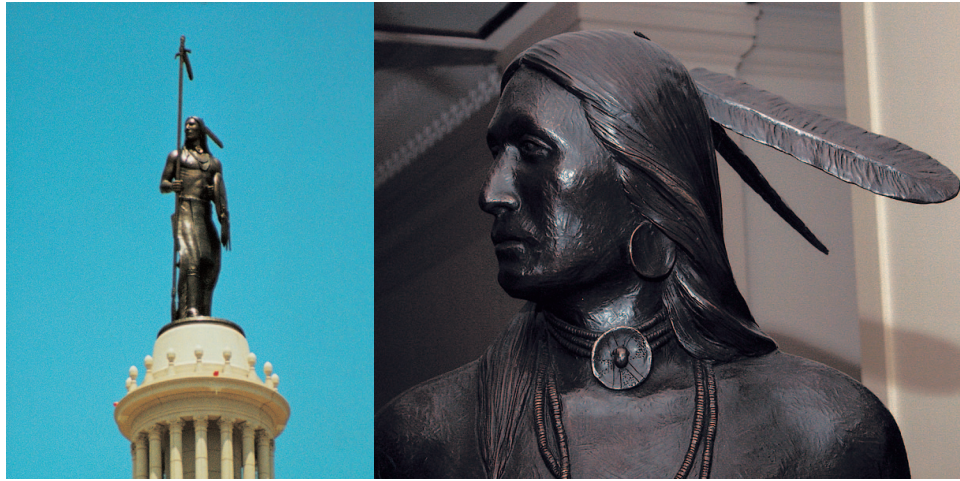
I am the Guardian...my journey began in the 1830s with the passage of the Indian Removal Act. Thousands and thousands of us were marched halfway across this country; thousands died along the way. But we rebuilt our lives, our families and our nations here. Through the years we were joined by others; their ancestors came from every corner of the world; but they came here and joined as we all worked to build a new life in this land of red earth.

The years to come were not easy; there were wars pitting brother against brother, tribe against tribe, and ultimately nations against nations. Throughout the years, thousands of Oklahomans have given their lives defending this country. They died in Europe, in Asia and in mountains and deserts thousands of miles away, but they all died so that we could live free. They fought for their fellow Oklahomans. They fought for America. I will guard their memory always.

Our young state has faced many adversities; for some it was too much, and they moved on. But for most of us, this red earth was now our home, even when the very earth itself seemed to turn against us. We refused to be moved; we survived the Dust Bowl...we have survived floods and storms, and in 1999 one of the worst tornadoes ever recorded on the face of the planet. But we survived, and we reached out our hands and helped one another and we stood our ground. When hate and evil struck our state in 1995 at the Murrah Federal Building; we proved to the world how strong our spirit was; and we showed that good is always stronger than evil. We stood our ground.

Soon I will be raised to the top of this Capitol building. Inside are many guardians of this state. Our Governor, our legislators, our judges – they all are charged with a very sacred task of being the guardians of Oklahoma, a state that is nearing its first centennial. I will stand guard here, over our great state, over our majestic land, over our values. My lance pierces my leggings and is planted in the ground. I will not be moved. I will stand strong and be proud of Oklahoma, our home. – June 7, 2002

Details



1. The sculpture measures 17 feet from head to toe. The height of the staff he is holding is 22 feet, nine inches.
2. There is a nine foot replica of the sculpture inside the Capitol on the second floor. The replica allows people to see the details of the sculpture up close.
3. The sculpture is made of bronze. Bronze is a metal made up of tin and copper. Copper is a very soft metal and tin is brittle and breaks easily. However, when these metals are combined by heating and melting, they create bronze, which is a very strong metal and ideal for sculptures.
4. It took 4,000 pounds of bronze to create the statue. The total weight of the entire sculpture is 5,980 pounds.
5. The statue was so large that it had to be cast in 50 separate sections and then welded together.
6. Haney used people he knew for models. He used his athletic neighbor as model for the torso and arms. He modeled the eyes after his son's and the cheeks after his grandson's.
7. A guardian is a person who guards, protects, and preserves.
8. The Indian does not just represent one tribe alone. It represents all 39 of the state's tribes together.

Details



9. The body of the Indian faces the east from where the sun rises and provides renewal in each new day.
10. His head looks to the south where the entrance to the Capitol is. Like a guardian, he watches those entering the building.
11. The figure's spear pierces the legging of the Indian. This is symbolic of being connected to the ground and not going anywhere. The guardian will keep watch over the people of Oklahoma.
12. After completion, *The Guardian* was displayed on the grounds of the Capitol so visitors could see it up close. On June 7, 2002, the statue was lifted by a crane and placed at its permanent home atop the dome of the Capitol.

Suggested Reading

Oklahoma Adventure, Centennial Edition 2006 by Oklahoma History Press
Oklahoma Stories: Early Settlers and the Run of 1889, **pages 320-327**
Oklahoma Stories: Darkness at Noon: The Dust Bowl, **pages 358-364**
Interesting Facts About Oklahoma, **page 418**
State Emblems, **pages 419-420**

Oklahoma: Land of Contrasts by Clairmont Press
Appendix I: Oklahoma's Vital Statistics, **page 502**
Appendix II: Oklahoma's Symbols, **pages 503-504**

The Story of Oklahoma, Second Edition by Baird and Goble
Appendix C: Oklahoma Geography, **page 405**
Appendix H: Oklahoma Symbols, **pages 410-411**

Final Analysis

After completing the readings and activities, go back and look at the artwork again. Now that the students are more familiar with the subject matter, ask them to write a few paragraphs about their interpretation of the artwork. In their own words, the writing should address the following:

- Description of the artwork and who/what is in it
- How the elements of art and principles of design are used within the artwork
- What feelings, emotions, or information the artwork depicts
- Their opinion of the artwork

Pass Objectives

Grade 4- Social Studies

Standard 5. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the unique features which contributed to the settlement of the state of Oklahoma.

1. Identify major historical individuals, entrepreneurs, and groups, and describe their major contributions (e.g., Sequoyah, the Boomers and the Sooners, and Frank Phillips).
2. Describe major events of Oklahoma's past, such as settlements by Native Americans, cattle drives, land runs, statehood, and the discovery of oil.
4. Identify state and local governing bodies (e.g., the state legislature and city councils) and officials (e.g., governor and mayors) that make laws and carry out laws, with an emphasis on civic participation (e.g., the importance of studying the issues and voting).

Grade 4- The Arts

Standard 2: Visual Art History and Culture - The student will recognize the development of visual art from an historical and cultural perspective.

1. Describe and place a variety of specific significant art objects by artist, style and historical and cultural context.
2. Identify themes and purposes of works of art and artifacts in history and culture.
3. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of several fields of art such as painting, sculpture, drawing, computer graphics, printmaking, architecture, and fiber arts.
4. Identify how visual art is used in today's world including the popular media of advertising, television, and film.

High School- Oklahoma History

Standard 1. The student will demonstrate process skills in social studies.

1. Identify, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary sources (e.g., artifacts, diaries, letters, art, music, literature, photographs, documents, newspapers, and contemporary media).

Standard 8. The student will examine factors that contributed to the political, economic, and social history of Oklahoma during the twentieth century.

4. Examine and evaluate the causes and effects of terrorism in Oklahoma, including the A. P. Murrah Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995, the responses of Oklahomans to the event, and the creation of the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

High School- The Arts

Standard 1: Language of Visual Art - The student will identify visual art terms (e.g., content, engraving, foreshortening, mosaic, perspective)

3. Describe exhibitions of original works of art seen in the school or community.
4. Differentiate between art criticism and art reviews, recognizing that criticism is positive as well as negative in its evaluation of a work of art.

Standard 2: Visual Art History and Culture - The student will recognize the development of visual art from an historical and cultural perspective.

5. PROFICIENT: Identify major regional, national, and international collections of art.

Standard 4: Visual Art Appreciation - The student will appreciate visual art as a vehicle of human expression.

2. Demonstrate respect for their work and the work of others.