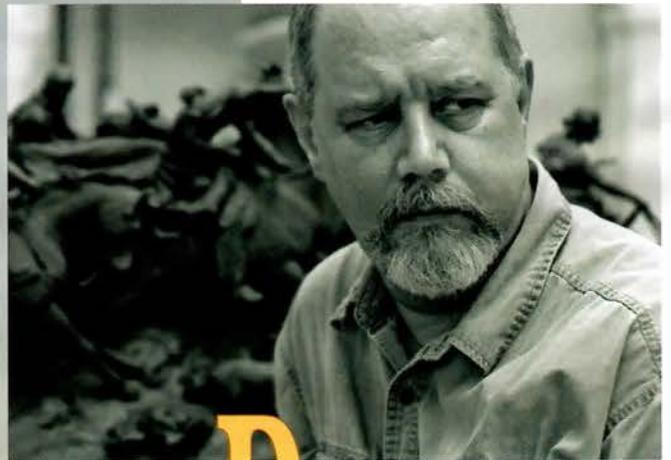


# MONUMENTAL MAN

Written by B. Byron Price

**Prolific and versatile, sculptor Paul Moore is known for larger-than-life work**



**P**aul Moore may very well be the most versatile and prolific figurative sculptor working in America today. During the past two decades, he has completed what many artists might consider a lifetime of work, much of it monumental in scale. Dozens of subjects — cowboys and Native Americans, presidents and athletes, governors and congressmen, doctors and educators, generals and philanthropists and more — have stirred Moore's creative impulses. In fact, he may be the only sculptor ever to have produced likenesses of both a cartoonist and a librarian.

**Hopi Snake Dancer**

Bronze | 42 x 19 x 15 inches  
2011 | Edition of 15



# MONUMENTS

When the Oklahoma City native snapped a picture of James Earle Fraser's mammoth sculpture, *The End of the Trail*, on a family visit to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in the early 1970s, he recalls imagining one day creating such a monument. What then seemed a far-fetched dream, is now just a day at the office for this talented artist. With an impressive list of commissions that ranges from life-size busts to larger-than-life, multigure memorials, scattered from Massachusetts to California, and from Canada to Kenya, Moore is indeed the ultimate "monuments man." For the past 14 years, his ever-increasing workload has included creating one of the world's largest bronze groups that, when complete, will extend more than



**Stick Ball Game**  
Bronze | 26 x 38 x 19 inches  
2012 | Edition of 8

"THE STICKBALL GAME"  
PAUL MOORE '88



a football field in length.

A self-taught artist and the son of a peripatetic Southern Baptist minister, Moore began modeling clay figures in high school. After marrying his childhood sweetheart and taking a job as a telephone engineer in Northern California, he continued to experiment with the plastic art, learning what he could from books and trial and error before seeking professional direction from Cowboy Artists of America co-founder Joe Beeler. Moore's cold call to Beeler evoked a warm response and an invitation to visit his Sedona, Arizona, studio. The daylong experience proved "life altering" for the aspiring artist, who continues to revere Beeler's memory and generous spirit.

Moore was barely 21 in 1978 when he sent his first sculpture, an Indian figure titled *Outlier*, to a Berkeley, California, foundry for casting. Eager to reduce the time and cost involved in producing such work, Moore and his brother eventually established their own "backyard foundry." After a few months, however, they decided to relocate to Montana, to learn the trade from experts at the Ace Powell Foundry and Kalispell Art Casting.

In 1985, after enduring four winters in the Northern Rockies, Moore and his wife, Kim, sought a warmer climate in New Mexico. With the experience he had gained in Montana, the artist quickly landed a job at the Shidoni

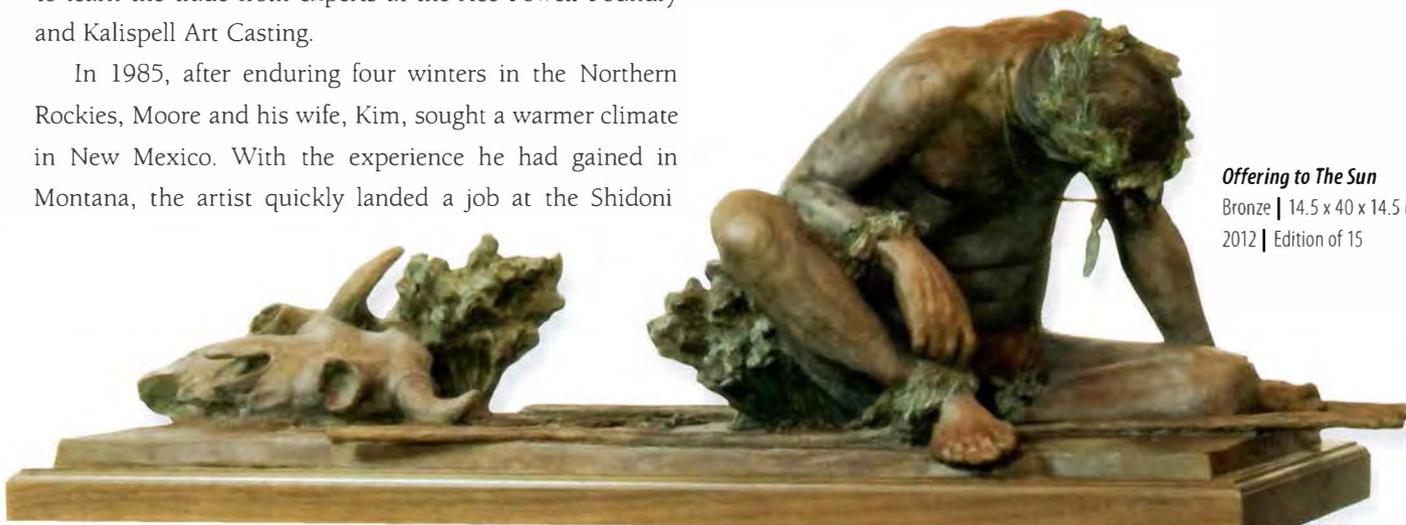
***On the Chisholm Trail Monument to the American Cowboy***

Bronze | 34 x 11 x 7 feet (life-size cattle drive) | 1998

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, McCasland Park, Duncan, Oklahoma

Foundry at Tesuque where he taught himself to enlarge bronze monuments. Seven years and 120 enlargements later, Moore quit the foundry business to become a full-time artist.

By this time he had already acquired 20 commissions, mostly heads, busts and life-size bronze figures. In 1993, a chance conversation between the artist's father and a childhood friend, Oklahoma oilman Thomas H. McCasland, led Moore to his largest project so far: a tribute to the American cowboy at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan, Oklahoma. Inspired by Augustus Saint-Gaudens' memorial to Robert Gould Shaw and the Massachusetts 54th Regiment in Boston, Moore's ambitious design called for the installation of a massive bronze trail-driving tableau, measuring 11 feet high, 7 feet wide and 34 feet long, with figures rendered in low and



***Offering to The Sun***

Bronze | 14.5 x 40 x 14.5 inches

2012 | Edition of 15

high relief as well as in the round.

This five-year project was well underway when University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren asked the artist to create a twice life-size likeness of George Lynn Cross, one of his distinguished predecessors. At the unveiling ceremony for the bronze in April 1996, Boren invited Moore to revive the university's figurative sculpture program (defunct since 1969) and serve as the school's artist-in-residence. Moore accepted the appointment and after finishing up his Chisholm Trail monument, moved back to Oklahoma. In addition to teaching, Moore undertook several new commissions destined for the OU campus,



*The Ghost Wrestler*

Bronze | 19.5 x 10 x 22 inches | 2011 | Edition of 15