

The National Gallery of the American Indian at Washington, D. C. is for the purpose of a centralization of his arts and crafts - for a wide recognition of his culture - to acquaint white people with what he looks like as a human being and what he is doing today. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on the scientific side of the subject. Of the man as a human being there is but little in either PAINTING OR SCULPTURE.

In the name of Christianity and progress we dispossessed him and made a dust bowl.

The old time Indian is passing away. There will be no more like them. Our idea of his appearance largely formed from coins, radiator caps and cigar boxes is a stereotyped Indian of braid, feathers and buckskins. This is not a true picture. We think of him as a savage if we think of him at all.

This gallery is in order that we may come to an appreciation of him and realize the great need to nurture and value his culture.

Because it is an American culture.

Because it is the beginning of a true American culture.

Because being primitive it is basic and sound.

Because it is part of the foundation of what can become a great American culture which we are desperately in need of developing. To date we have been inclined to produce a tin can system of life. Railroads - telegraph poles, telephones, radios, movies, motor cars, skyscrapers and jazz do not in themselves make a civilization.

The Indian lives with mother nature and close to his own nature and is in touch with the deep springs of universal life.

Because - we have booms, depressions, great wars, jitters, chatters, breakdowns and rapidly growing insanity; we need to see him as a symbol of what we have lost contact with and need to regain in order that we may learn of universal laws and live by them.

Because we greatly need to leave the thin, brittle stream of consciousness in which we live and return to stability and the strong life flow in the depths of our own natures.

This building is in commemoration and perpetuation of the best that is in all Americans.