

Edwina Hawley Milner is a painter, arts patron, educator, and member of the Chickasaw Nation.

Born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on February 8, 1931, Edwina became an artist at seven years of age. Graduating with honors in 1953 from the University of Texas at Austin, Edwina used her artistic talent to pay for college. Employed as a commercial artist in newspaper advertising for Scarborough's and Goodfriend's in Austin, Edwina's drawings of fashion models were published in the newspaper in Austin, Texas. Some of these drawings currently remain in her permanent collection. Later she became the advertising director for Buttrey's.

In 1954 Edwina Hawley married Charles Milner and began rearing two children. Husband and family became top priorities, but during the ensuing decades, she taught private art classes as well as adult art education, and was an instructor at Houston Community College and the Houston Contemporary Art Museum. As time permitted in Edwina's studio, she produced a variety of compositions which alternated between abstraction and realism. Her media included oils and acrylics. She continued to use her background in drawing when she became a costume designer for Theater, Inc., for the productions of *"Show Boat"* and *Once upon a Mattress*. Also, two galleries represented her art

As Milner's name awareness increased during the next three decades, the artist exhibited abstracts of acrylic and gold leaf throughout Texas. Beginning in 1968, exhibitions included the Witte Museum, San Antonio, Texas; Huntington Museum, Austin, Texas; and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts. Also one-person works were shown in 1970, 1973 and 1974. Her 1980 major *"Cross"* Series exhibition at Houston Baptist University used acrylic and pencil design depicting sacrifice behind images portraying human spirit and life cycles. Juried shows included Dimension Houston, Baytown Annual, Houston Art League, and the Beaux Arts Invitational as well as the University of Texas Art Museum.

In 1991 Edwina and Charles moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico. During the ensuing years, the Milner's became patrons of numerous arts and charitable institutions which necessitated that Edwina discontinue her own art career in order to avoid any conflict of interest with her new mission of representing and promoting other women artists. In 1999 the artist initiated statewide art shows to increase the visibility and stature of women artists in New Mexico. Over the decades, much of Edwina's service to various organizations has focused on fund raising and marketing.

Edwina's high profile contribution to Santa Fe is as lead donor and visionary for Milner Plaza, the 32-acre renovation on Museum Hill that is home to the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture and Museum of International Folk Art. In addition, she, along with two other donors, funded the Lloyd Kiva New Gallery in the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture.

Milner's community participation reads much like a *Who's Who*. She is a founder of the New Mexico Committee of the National Women's Museum of the Arts, Washington, D.C. and is on the National Advisory Board of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D. C. In addition, she has served on the Board of Directors of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, the New Mexico High School for the Arts, as well as the International Folk Art Museum. Also she served on committees for the Institute of American Indian Art Gala, the Cancer Gala, Native American Preparatory School Gala, and the New Mexico Museum of Art. She also originated the Designer Showcase for New Mexico Women Designers and Jewelers

In 2003 Governor Bill Richardson appointed Edwina as President of the Board of Regents of the Museum of New Mexico which included 4 state museums and 6 state monuments. She and five committee members also brought national and international recognition to Santa Fe from Canada, Mexico, England, Ireland, and Spain as well as from our own 48 States by designing and organizing the International Conference for the International Women's Forum.

In 2004, Edwina Hawley Milner received the Mayor's Recognition Award for Excellence in the Arts, Santa Fe, and in 2006, because of her major contribution to the arts, Edwina Hawley Milner received New Mexico's highest and most prestigious artistic honor, the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

While Edwina still continues to be active in the community, in 2011 the artist returned to painting almost full time.