

# HOODED COBRA

**Title:** Hooded Cobra

**Artist:** Coe, Herring

**Date:** 1960

**Type:** Sculpture

**Medium:** Bronze (sculpture), concrete (base)

**Location:** Hermann Park



The bronze statue of the hooded cobra, its head raised and its hood extended, is displayed at the [Houston Zoo](#) outside the Reptile House. It is the work of Matchett Herring Coe.

The artist was born in Hardin County, Texas, in 1907, and studied electrical engineering at what is now Lamar University and sculpture at Cranbrook Art Academy. He fought in World War II as a member of the U.S. Navy. Besides the Houston Zoo, where he is represented through the Hooded Cobra and the bas reliefs at the entrance to the Brown Education Center, he has artwork displayed at Houston City Hall, Rice University, First Presbyterian Church, Sabine Pass, the Battalion Memorial at Guadalcanal, and other locations. The cenotaph commemorating the New London School Explosion, in which 293 school children, teachers, and others died on March 18, 1937, is one of his most famous, and poignant, works. He died in 1999, and is [buried in Beaumont](#).

