

IN PERSPECTIVE

Art-world news and market updates, exhibitions and events.

It Takes Two

For the first time, The San Francisco Tribal and Textile Art Show and The American Indian Art Show—San Francisco (formerly the Marin Show) are joining forces. Longtime highlights of the Bay Area art and social calendar, the two shows will hold their 2020 editions simultaneously at the Fort Mason Center. They kick off with a Gala Preview on Friday, February 21, and then run through Sunday, February 23.

Though in many ways complementary, both fairs feature distinct voices in the global art world. The San Francisco Tribal and Textile Art Show brings together top international dealers specializing in fine textiles and rugs from Africa, Asia, and North America; carvings and objects from Indonesia and Oceania; and contemporary works from



around the world. The American Indian Art Show—San Francisco is a forum for important American Indian art both antique and contemporary. It also showcases Pre-Columbian and Spanish Colonial works. Both shows include jewelry, textiles, baskets, pottery, bead-



work, sculpture, paintings, photography, and books.

One of the highlights of the Tribal and Textile Art Show comes from Santa Fe-based dealer Michael Smith Gallery: a contemporary Wounaan Indian basket. The Wounaan Indians inhabit one of the last untouched rainforests in Panama. This piece, a striking example of Wounaan craftsmanship, features geometric patterns woven in red, white, and yellow on a black background. The Carol Sissoko Bead Collection of Scottsdale will have a set of chevron beads from Nigeria in tow. Dutch

merchants introduced glass chevron beads, which were made in Venice or Murano, Italy, to West Africa in the late 15th century. This set, which dates from the 1700s, features the classic dark



carvings, will showcase several examples of the finely carved dolls. These figures, which the Hopis typically made of cottonwood root, were given to girls as symbols of the katsinas—spirits thought by the Pueblo Indians of the Southwest to bring rain and preside over other aspects of the natural world. The gallery will bring a Sio Hemis Katsina figure dating



red, blue, and white colors typical of the variety that was most heavily traded.

Caravenserai Ltd. will feature several examples of silk embroidered hats from Uzbekistan. The intricately patterned hats are finely colored with vegetable dyes. The Oriental Treasure box of San Diego will have a carved wood okimono that takes the form of a charming cat. The piece is dated to around 1900.

At the American Indian Art Show, Buffalo Barry's Indian Art, a dealer specializing in Hopi katsina



to the 1920s that bears its signature headdress and kilt.

New York dealer John Mollo Gallery will be showing a parfleche made by the Umatilla tribe of the Pacific Northwest in the late 19th century. The rawhide container, which looks

parcel-like, is painted with geometric abstract forms that substantially predate any similar mark making by Modern artists.

Cutright & Sons Tribal Art of Olympia, Wash., will have a Rattletop basket by the Tlingit people of the Pacific Northwest. The work features maze-like polychrome patterns that bring the Greek Key design to mind.



COURTESY OF CARAVENSERAI LTD.; THE ORIENTAL TREASURE BOX: JOHN MOLLOY GALLERY; THE CAROL SISSOKO BEAD COLLECTION: CUTRIGHT & SONS TRIBAL ART; MICHAEL SMITH GALLERY; BUFFALO BARRY'S INDIAN ART