

SAN FRANCISCO

TRIBAL & TEXTILE ART

SHOW / 2018 / ART OF ASIA, AFRICA, OCEANIA & THE AMERICAS

Highlights from the 32nd San Francisco Tribal & Textile Art Show: February 8–11, 2018, at Fort Mason Center Festival Pavilion

Objects that take your breath away can be monumental or tiny. Sometimes they are of incalculable value and sometimes within the reach of the most frugal budgets. Often, despite their utilitarian purpose, they inspire awe or instills reverence, imbued with great artistry through the love of their makers.

This fascinating variety is at the heart of the works created by indigenous peoples from around the globe who carved, painted, hammered, stitched, and wove functional and spiritual objects often designed for personal use or for loved ones. Many of the thousands of works you see at the 2018 San Francisco Tribal & Textile Art Show will indeed take your breath away, and here are a few examples:



Late 20th Century Songye Mask

Central Africa

Featured in François Neyt's book *Songye: The Formidable Statuary of Central Africa*, this mask is an outstanding example of the unparalleled strength, power, and breadth characteristic of Central African Songye statuary. Songye statues bring together the talents of the blacksmith, the sculptor, and the spiritual healer, resulting in works that are both elegant and imposing. Shown by eminent Belgian gallery Didier Claes, this 12.5" (32 cm) tall mask is created from wood, horn, and metal. Like all Songye work, it is intended to capture the encounter between a human and the powers of the universe watching silently as man struggles to evolve toward new social and political visions. Didier Claes opened his original gallery in Brussels's Sablon neighborhood, home to Europe's first major tribal art fair.

The new Galerie Didier Claes, at 14 Rue de l'Abbaye, near the 12th-century Abbaye de la Cambre, is an important resource for European and American tribal collectors.



Pre-Columbian Colima Dog, West Coast/Mexico,
Ca. 300 BC-300 AD

The Colima dog, depicting the ancestors of Peruvian Hairless dogs, were valued as household pets and guards and also important as spirit guides, helping their owners find the path to heaven after death. Shown by Los Angeles based Powers Fine Art.

***Tapi*, a Ceremonial Women's Skirt, Lampung, South Sumatra, Indonesia**

Late 19th–Early 20th Century

While renowned for spectacular Middle Eastern and Oriental textiles, Peter Pap of Peter Pap Oriental Rugs, San Francisco, has an eye for magical weavings, regardless of their purpose or source. On the southern tip of the island of Sumatra, the province of Lampung is well known for its artisans' imaginative use of silk, cotton, mica, and gold in their weavings. *Tapis* like this one were hand-dyed and hand-woven, sewn into a large rectangle, with the sides joined to create a tube for the woman to step into and wear as a sarong during important ceremonies. Sadly, the skills necessary to create these *tapis* gradually diminished during the early part of the 20th century and were extinguished during World War II.



Contemporary Men's Silk-and-Cotton Kimono in Traditional Laotian Style

Bounkhong Signavong

Designer Bounkhong Signavong founded Lao Design in Vientiane, Laos, in the early 1990s. As a youngster he learned through his family to identify quality textiles, and by the late 1980s he was traveling to the countryside, where tribes people gladly showed him their weaving techniques, and he began collecting antique and vintage textiles, and contemporary samples of the villagers' outstanding work to inform his own. After a trip to North America in the early 2000s, Bounkhong decided to make New York his second home and began exhibiting at a store in SoHo. This contemporary men's hand-stitched and hand-embroidered kimono calls on ancient designs for both the fabric and the garment and uses natural dyes to

produce a unique pairing of colors striped with narrow bands of bold blue, royal red, and cream. The kimono is cuffed in emerald-green silk.

Ceremonial Mask, Dayak Kenyah culture, East Kalimantan, Borneo Island, Indonesia

Early 20th Century



The Kenyah people of the Dayak culture, sometimes called the “Upriver People,” are based in Sarawak and East Kalimantan, in the Malaysian and Indonesian sections of Borneo. Traditionally, they lived along a river in very large community longhouses, usually at a confluence, to ensure good transport by canoe, and cut and burned small areas of forest to grow dry rice. The Kenyah are revered as exceptional craftsmen and for their ceremonies, displaying prowess as both singers and dancers. This early-20th-century “Godly Face” mask, rare because of its unusual leaf-like ears, was created for such ceremonies. Presented by Mark A. Johnson Tribal Art, the mask is made of carved wood and pigments, measuring 22.5" (57 cm) high, 17" (43 cm) wide, and 5.25" (13.5 cm) deep. Mark became a dealer of

tribal artwork in the 1970s, when he traveled to Asia for the first time. Today he specializes in the traditional arts of Asia and the Western Pacific, with an emphasis on the Austronesian cultures of Indonesia, and the Philippines.

The San Francisco Tribal & Textile Art Show opens at Fort Mason Thursday, February 8, with a preview opening from 6 to 9 p.m. Regular show hours will be Friday, February 9, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; Saturday, February 10, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; and Sunday, February 11, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission is \$15 per person daily or \$25 for run-of-show.

For additional information go to: sanfranciscotribalandtextileartshow.com/press.php. For interview requests, contact Clare Hertel: 505-670-3090, or at clare@clarehertelcommunications.com.

For high-resolution, downloadable images of works to be featured in the San Francisco Tribal & Textile Art Show, please visit: <https://objectsofartshows.smugmug.com/San-Fran-Tribal-Textile-Art-Sh/Exhibitor-images/>

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