



TRIBAL TALES

Quarterly Newsletter published by
Tribal Expressions

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Tribal Tales

In the course of the last 10 months we have had 11 shows featuring as many visiting artists. We are grateful to the Daily Herald, The Chicago Tribune, American Indian Artist, Southwest Art and other publications who have helped publicize these noteworthy events. My sincere thanks to Jeri for her late night efforts planning, preparing and presenting our wonderful home-made hor d'oeuvres.

The breathtaking beauty of the paintings, pottery, sculpture, and jewelry that has been assembled for our shows seems endless. Each visiting artist has made an extra effort to surpass prior achievements and to present innovations never before seen. We are grateful to them one and all.

The following articles highlight events that have taken place since our spring publication, and describe some of our newest art. Our fall and winter lineup includes Jody Naranjo, Santa Clara Potter; Wilmer Kaye, Hopi kachina carver; Roderick Kaskalla, Zuni Jeweler; and Watson Honanie, Hopi silver and goldsmith. We wish all our artists, customers, friends, and readers a happy, healthy summer.



Kay & Sylvia

Show

A note of thanks and recognition is extended to Sylvia Begay Radcliffe & Kay Begay Rogers, for their personal appearance and sneak



preview of their jewelry on Thursday May 11, 1995. They were selected as 2 of 26 contemporary artists to show at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center's Eighth Annual Indian Art Sale in Chicago. Tribal Expressions was proud to host these outstanding Navajo

Alaskan Ivory Carvings

by: Sandy Diamond

Walrus.. Ivory.. Survival.. I had no idea how interwoven these words are in the life of the Alaskan Native. Alaskan people have the challenge of rigorous winter climate, rugged topography, limited capital and distant markets, all elements affecting their survival. The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 protects walrus herds and allows them to maintain a healthy population off the coast of Alaska. Alaskan natives who dwell on the coast of the North Pacific Ocean or the Arctic may "take" walrus and other marine mammals for subsistence purposes or for the creation and sale of authentic Native articles, clothing, artistry. (*subsist—to exist; be, to remain or continue in existence*)

Sport or recreational hunting of walrus or other marine mammals is illegal. Unlike many marine mammals, the walrus is not an endangered species and is in fact more plentiful now than it was 100 years ago. The Eskimo people only hunt for food, then use the by-products for clothing, shelter and art, in that order.



Job scarcity is prevalent and the use of ivory for creative artistry is necessary for the people to survive. Hand-crafts such as ivory carving and skin sewing have developed as a main source of income. Several villages comprise the major source of ivory carvings—Shishmaref, Diomedea, Wales, Gambell, King Island, Teller and Nome. The geographic location of these villages afford greatest access to the migratory herds of walrus that pass annually through the Bering Strait.

Gambell village, situated on the coast of Northwest Cape, St. Lawrence Island, looks out upon the Bering Sea—a mere 36 miles west to the shores of Siberia. Siberia is approximately 2 1/2 times the size of the United States. (Just Siberia..imagine the size of Russia!) The villagers are Siberian Yupik speaking Eskimos. In April each year the whales pass through the Bering Strait, in May the Walrus migrate and in June the seals travel along their well worn path. Ivory hunting is done in the spring-summer month of May. Many contemporary artist-carvers employ free standing small scale figures of the walrus as their primary form of expression. I believe it is to honor the walrus spirit.

Elephant ivory is rarely used for Alaskan hand crafted products. It is white with a distinctive grain-like pattern very different from the look of new walrus ivory. Elephant ivory shows a crisscross or striped pattern of faint, often curving lines running throughout it. Fossil mammoth and mastodon ivory also may have a similar grain pattern but usually has a stained color. New walrus ivory is mostly white, at the center is a mottled core, with the appearance of tapioca. Alaskan Natives tend to use their walrus ivory for higher value articles, principally carved figures. The distinctions in ivory types are prevalent to the discerning collector's eye.

Ivory.. Eggshell white, smooth, silky, enchanting pieces carved by warm brown hands in the long dark days of the Alaskan winter months, sitting quietly in the glass cases at Tribal Expressions waiting to touch your spirit. Come, visit with us



TRIBAL TEMPTATIONS

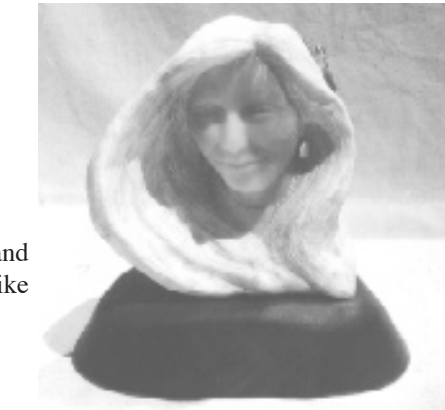


Corn Maiden by Robin Teller

This 9" tall Corn Maiden is emerging through the cracked and broken earth.

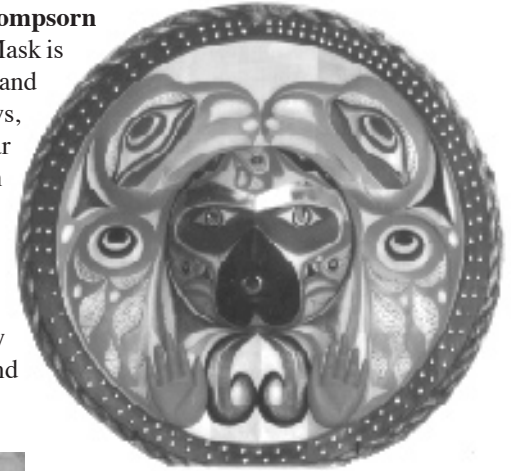
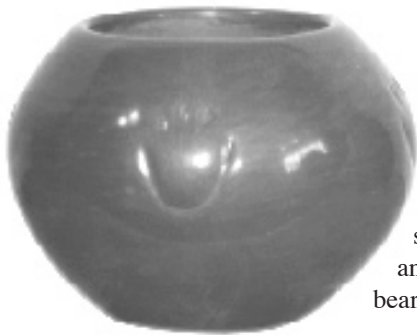
To Reflect in Peace by Kathy Whitman/Elk Woman

Kathy artfully combined the silver and stone in this sculpture to create a lifelike image.



Santa Clara Bear Paw Pot by Margaret Tafoya

Created by the reigning matriach of Santa Clara Pottery, this 6" x 5" red polished bowl shines like no other. Known for her balance and semetry, this bowl incorporates four small bear paws.



Olla by Mike and Jackie Torivio

This olla, containing the rainbird design is fashioned after one Jackie's grandmother made and was photographed with for *National Geographic* years ago.



BOOKS

In the spirit of providing a well rounded forum for artistic expression, we are pleased to invite Tribal Tales readers to our first book signing. The authors of the books reviewed below will make a gallery appearance **noon to 5:00 P.M., October 14, 1995**. Patrons are encouraged to bring family and friends to meet these writers in person and obtain an autographed book.

OJIBWA CHIEFS 1690-1890, An Annotated Listing, by **John "Jake" A. Ilko, Jr.**, Whitson Publishing Co., \$8

Five years of research and two years of writing resulted in the production of Jake's first book. With the aid of two interpreters as assistants, Jake compiled information listing 800 chiefs, including Loon's Foot & Snow Glider. Material for the book was derived from old treaties, manuscripts and fur trading journals.

DREAM CATCHER, The Legend, The Lady, The Woman by **Karen Hartman**, illustrated by Louise Bussiere, Weeping Heart Publications, Campbellsport, WI \$19.95 Review by Mary Ellen Sarbaugh

This book affords a good introduction to Indian legends, especially for a child who has a dream catcher. The sepia illustrations add to the dreamlike quality and provide a soothing touch. The presentation of Spider as a trickster may make this small creature more a thing of interest and less of fear - especially since the Lady tricks the trickster. The book introduces symbols in a way understandable to a small child. While the writing level is a bit uneven, the book is useful for purposes of teaching one how to make a dream catcher, and to create our own symbols.

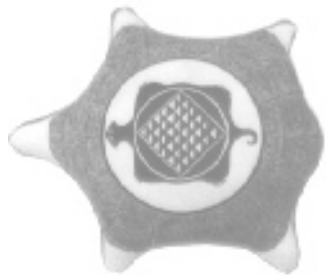
Folk & Tribal Arts Festival - MIKE & JACKIE TORIVIO

The Tribal Expressions booth at the Folk and Tribal Arts Festival in May represented the strength of American Indian art compared to native offerings from around the world. In both design and execution, our domestic products were equal or superior to items made in Africa, Asia or South America. The event was held at the Merchandise Mart ExpoCenter, where nearly 70 vendors joined for the event

In conjunction with the Folk and Tribal Art Festival in Chicago, Tribal Expressions was pleased to show the work of Mike and Jackie Torivio. This husband and wife team from Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico enhance traditional pottery with intricate designs. Using a flower pattern for beauty, a turtle shell pattern for long life, a star burst to represent the beginning of life, feathers for blessings, yucca for the growth of all plants and animals, rain birds for bringing the rain, and arrowheads for protection, the Torivio's contemporary pottery designs draw heavily upon age-old southwest decoration.

While in the gallery, Jackie demonstrated her painting technique using a homemade yucca brush. With a steady hand and keen eye she painted a small turtle and shell pattern on the back of a small turtle pot. We now have that pot, pictured below, and several other of their creations, including a rare rain bird olla and wedding vase.

Mike and Jackie returned promptly



to Acoma where they are active in a project to restore the San Esteban Del Rey Mission. They have provided us with brochures for the pueblo to distribute to those who would like to know more about their village. We are grateful for their visit.

The Best of Isleta, STELLA & ROBIN TELLER

Poise, pride and personality exemplify the nature of Stella and Robin Teller. These two women filled our gallery with an abiding sense of respect for clay and for mother earth. Both were attentive to the questions of adults and to those of small children, all of whom were curious about the clay figurines for which the Tellers have gained a widespread reputation.

On this, their second visit, we again had an opportunity to learn from their instruction how to fashion pinch pots and to make animals. The children who participated took with them treasures of their own making and this writer came away from the event with a greater respect for the skill needed to work the clay.

While I am proud of the two small pots I made, I was surprised at the amount of time and concentration needed to create them. Knowing the time and energy expended in collection and processing of the clay and slips, the painting and firing, and the need for creativity and innovation, it becomes clear that the value of these figurines is much greater than their cost.

Stella and Robin brought work from the entire family as well as their own, several are particularly noteworthy. Stella created a wolf mother reclining on her side with three playful pups. A corn maiden figure, made by Robin, resembles an ear of corn emerging through the cracked and broken earth. Kernels of corn are exposed through outstretched corn husk arms which the maiden holds out with an offering bowl. A canteen, by Chris, is encircled with 14 singing children around a comical figure of a mudhead climbing a ladder. These and other figures by Stella and her



TRIBAL TIMES

We are proud of the talent we have scheduled for our fall and winter shows. **Mark your calendars and reserve the dates** so you won't miss an opportunity to meet these nationally acclaimed Indian artists.

Don't miss our third anniversary celebration, featuring **Jody Naranjo**, October 6-8. Jody ranks at the forefront of the most talented and innovative of the newest generation of Santa Clara potters.

Karen Hartman, author of **Dream Catcher**, and **Jake Ilko, Jr.**, author of **Ojibwa Chiefs** will be onsite *noon to 5:00, Saturday October 14* for our first book signing.

Exceptional grace and rhythm describe the sculptural wood carving of **Wilmer Kay**. Join us *November 10-12* to view Wilmer's newest creations, meet this exceptional carver and learn more about Hopi Kachinas and their meanings.

Traditional channel inlay jewelry, made with the best obtainable materials, describes the work of **Roderick and Lela Kaskalla**. Plan a Thanksgiving surprise for someone special with a visit to Tribal Expressions, *November 24-26*.

Watson Honanie creates jewelry of gold and silver portraying Hopi culture and ceremonial life. Watson is credited with popularizing the use of gold in the overlay style, his gold over silver is recognizably individualistic and is exceptionally well done. Stop in *December 8-11* to view and have the opportunity to purchase contemporary silver and gold designs of this Hopi master.

Landmark exhibition of Northern Plains Indian Art - Many Horses/Michael Schwab

Inspired by libraries, museums, historic photos, and by experiences from within his adopted Santee Sioux family, Michael Schwab, known artistically as "Many Horses", creates Northern Plains style art. Two and three dimensional works made of wood, leather, horn and bone displayed Michael's artistic diversity and inventiveness. No other single artist has provided Tribal Expressions with such variety.



Michael prepared months in advance for the 4th of July show. Not only did Michael have difficulty in securing raw materials, his second child was born only a few weeks before the show. Between work and baby sitting, he managed to create some of his finest work to date.

The horse effigy pictured on our invitations for Michaels reception, (also in the top right of the photo shown) replicated a Teton Sioux Horse Dance stick found in the South Dakota Plains Indian Museum in Pierre, South Dakota. Carvings like this were made to honor a warrior's fallen horse. Bullet wounds, stained front hoofs, stained horse hair scalp lock, smoked buckskin tanned with brains, buffalo hair mane, and buffalo harness leather all combined to embellish this extraordinary carving.

Michael also created two especially interesting spoons for his exhibition. According to Michael, decorative spoons were used by the plains Indians on special occasions. One, an Elk Dreamer spoon, was created by heating a horn over fire to bend and shape it. Once shaped, an elk head and antlers were carved into the spoon. Elk dreamers were spirits sometimes known as shape shifters. They were highly honored by the tribe. This spoon, plus rattles,



JEWELRY REPAIR

Tribal Expressions can now help with your Indian Jewelry repair. We have made arrangements with a local artisan who is experienced in restoration and repair of traditional and contemporary Indian jewelry. Individuals with broken or damaged items may bring them to Tribal Expressions for an estimate.

TACHINII BEN UPDATE

Wendy and Joe Ben, Jr. report that Tachinii is stable and improving slowly. Tribal Expressions encourages those who wish to assist with medical costs to forward donations to the Tachinii Nez Ben Fund, Account # 037-004769, BANK OF AMERICA, P.O. Box 10716, Phoenix, Arizona 85064.

TRIBAL HOURS

MONDAY..... by appointment
 TUESDAY..... 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 WEDNESDAY..... 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 THURSDAY..... 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 FRIDAY..... 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 SATURDAY..... 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 SUNDAY..... Noon to 5 p.m.
 Tribal Expressions is located 2 blocks west of Arlington Heights Rd. and 1 1/2 blocks south of Northwest Highway.



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