

University of Northern Colorado

Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC

Bent's Old Fort

Colorado National Parks

Montclair: Arts of the Native American

New York Times

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digscholarship.unco.edu/beol>

Montclair: Arts of the Native American

By MURIEL JACOBS

FROM the more than 5,000 artifacts in the American Indian collection at the Montclair Art Museum, the curator Janet Cooke has selected about 100 objects for display in an exhibition, primarily of baskets, entitled "The Spider and the Snake."

The show, which opened last September, will run through July 31.

Few people fail to respond to the appeal of American Indian art in the traditional forms of pottery, jewelry, blankets and baskets.

Because even fewer shops and galleries resist the temptation to display these craftworks for sale, buyers are likely to encounter a sensory feast in old and new forms, indigenous work and less obviously identified variations incorporating imported materials.

Evaluating the materials from

ANTIQUES

which an object was made is an established means of tracing early trade and migration routes.

More than a century ago, the Indians who came to trade at Bent's Old Fort on the Sante Fe Trail in southeastern Colorado began working small Venetian glass beads into clothing and ceremonial objects. Some of these items were discovered, still boxed, in obscure storage and are displayed once again among the goods and provisions on the shelves at the recreated general store inside the fort.

Indian baskets are primarily utilitarian, made in enormous quantity and considerable variety for container use. Principally for this reason, they are ubiquitous in antiques shops throughout the country.

Baskets that were heavily used disintegrated, no matter how marvelously embellished; of those that have survived and surfaced for sale, most are more ordinary than the examples sought by serious collectors.

More-obvious sources for investment-quality antique baskets are knowledgeable dealers who specialize in Amerind items and the dissolution of collections at auction or private sale.

Of the older baskets that have survived, and are representative of excellent workmanship and condition, most were undoubtedly brought into the trading posts or were made for the tourist market. Many were commissioned or acquired unused by anthropologists and others working with the Indians, living among them and documenting their customs and beliefs.

Early, continuous acquisitions made by museums, as well as the acceptance (and storage) of bequests, tend to make public collections superb reference sources.

The Montclair Museum's exhibition represents a fraction of its collection of more than 1,000 Indian baskets, according to Mrs. Cooke, the museum's curator of education.

Most of the baskets and other objects on display are part of the Rand Collection of American Indian Art in the museum's permanent collection. Other donors and purchases are also noted.

The exhibition is spare and compelling, beautifully mounted and nicely annotated with an appeal directed toward both young people and adults.

Few of the baskets on view are much more than 100 years old; none precedes the arrival or influence of the Conquistadores, the mountain men, traders and settlers.

Still, traditional designs persist and innovations fascinate.

Baskets constructed for everyday use by coiling, plaiting, twining or wicker work are imbued with the excellence and suitability of material, singular adoption of design to use and the technical mastery and individuality that characterize the finest folk art.

Ceremonial objects and clothing, all examples of fine basketwork, poignantly dramatize the passing of some of the rich cultural traditions of the tribes of the Eastern woodlands, the desert Southwest, California, the Pacific Northwest, Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.

There are baskets from the Northeast made of ash and elm, yucca and cattail baskets from the Southwest, California baskets of hazelwood and willow and cedar and spruce baskets from the Northwest.

Some are decorated with vegetable dye, others with the chemistry of aniline dye used in later rugs. Some baskets are embellished with silk yarn, beads, shells or a dense coat of small, brilliantly colored feathers.

These, made by the Pomo basket-makers, were symbolically worked in bright red from the woodpecker, yellow from the meadowlark, blue from the blue jay, green from the mallard and black from the quail.

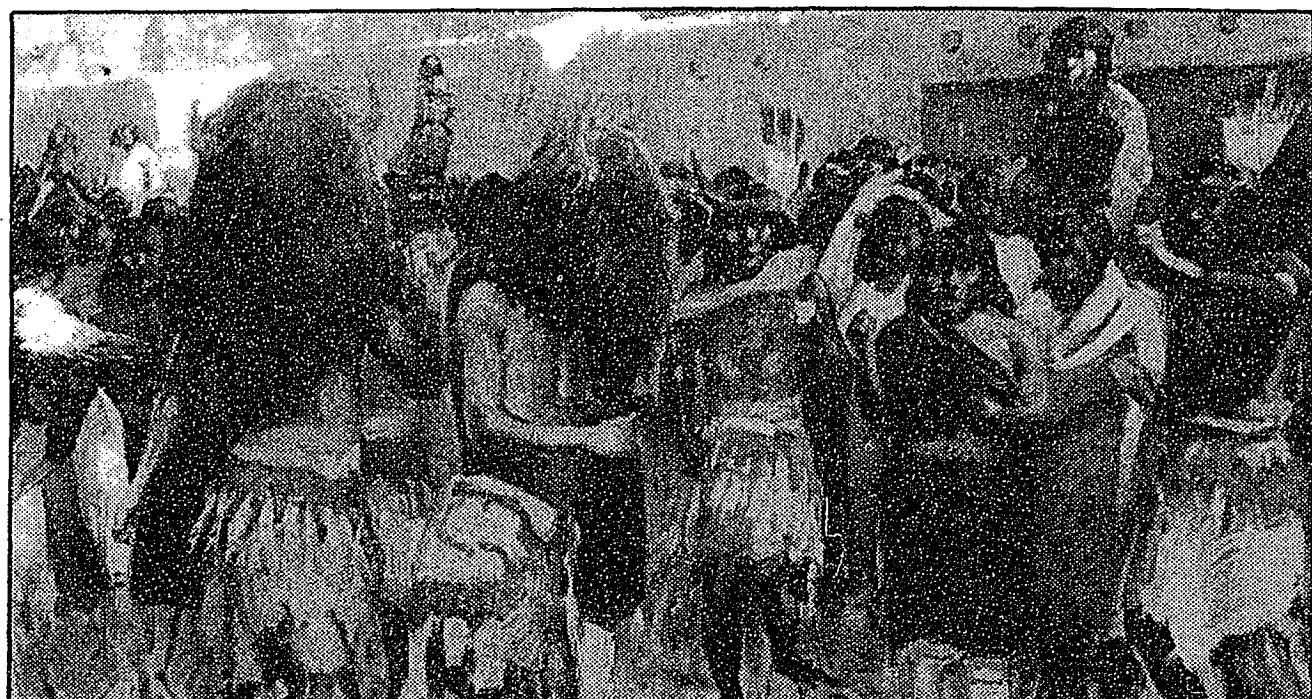
The Montclair Art Museum is at 3 South Mountain Avenue at the corner of Bloomfield Avenue.

Hours are 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 2 to 9 P.M. on Thursday and 2 to 5 P.M. on Sunday. The museum is closed on Mondays.

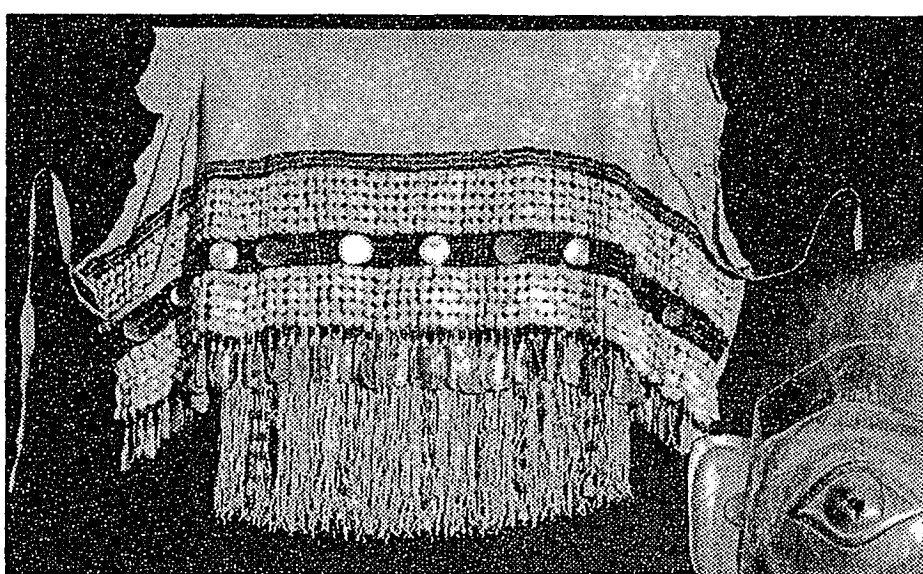
The general donation is \$2 (\$1 for the elderly and full-time students over the age of 18). Those under 18 are admitted free. No admission is charged on Thursdays.

Events Calendar

Today — Show and sale of antiques, Bonnie Brae Center, Valley Road,



The New York Times/F.N. Kinney



Among the items in the Montclair Art Museum's American Indian collection are, from top: painting entitled "Dance at San Ildefonso," painted in 1892; a buckskin shirt, a Tlingit mask, made about 1890, and a hat and cape with armlets.

ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES SHOW & SALE

Montclair Women's Club
82 Union St.
Montclair, N.J.

April 3 & 4, 1987
Friday... 11am-9pm
Saturday... 11am-6pm

Snack Bar & Dinner
Admission \$2.00
Appraiser—\$2.00 per item
(1 PM to closing)

TOMATO FACTORY ANTIQUE CENTER

Hopewell, New Jersey
30 Dealers offering formal, country & oak furniture, accessories and collectibles.
Rte 206 & 31 South, to 518, In Hopewell.
2 blocks behind Sunoco Station, 1/2 way betw. Lambertville & Princeton.
609-466-9833

NJW 50th Year! NJW

New Haven Antiques Show

New England's Oldest and Largest!
261 Exhibitors! \$15-Million Display!

April 3-4-5

Hours: Fri & Sat: 12-10, Sun: 12-6

New Haven Coliseum

275 So. Orange St., New Haven, CT.
take Exit 1 on I-91 or Exit 47 on I-95
M. & R. Cottler, Mgrs. Info: 203-387-7006
50c OFF ONE ADMISSION WITH THIS AD

NJW NJW

Too much to read?

Read what you need for today. There'll be another New York Times to help you prepare for tomorrow.

The New York Times

IMMEDIATE NOTICE OF IMPORTANT AUCTION

ORDERED BY
CHINA TRADE DEVELOPMENT CO.
THE FINE ART
CHINESE FURNITURE
AND
ORIENTAL RUGS

AT THE PREMISES OF
DRYUS AUCTIONEER WAREHOUSE
373 ROUTE 46 WEST (BUILDING "D")

AT THE BUSINESS CAMPUS/BEHIND JACK LaLANNE HEALTH SPA AFTER LEVITZ & SEAMAS FURNITURE STORE/APPROX 350 FT. PASS. HOLLYWOOD AVE EXIT/TURN RIGHT INTO THE DRIVEWAY OF JACK LaLANNE HEALTH SPA FAIRFIELD, N.J.

SUN. APRIL 5 AT 2 PM
VIEW AT 1 PM

INCLUDES:

FINE ROSEWOOD FURNITURE, GOLD LEAF COROMANDEL & INLAID SCREENS, ALTAR TABLES, VARIOUS STYLES OF PEDESTAL TABLES, CLOISONNE INALID, PALACE VASES, FISH BOWLS, IVORY CARVINGS, PORCELAINS, SILK RUGS & 100'S OF DECORATIVE ACCESSORIES TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION. PLUS A FINE PERSIAN RUG COLLECTION AND A COLLECTION OF REMINGTON & EUROPEAN BRONZES, JADE & LAPIS CARVINGS.

PLUS

BALANCE OF INVENTORY OF ACCENTS RUG GALLERY INC. (IN LIQUIDATION) 140 MAGNIFICENT PIECES OF ORIENTAL RUGS, INCLUDING MASTER PIECES.

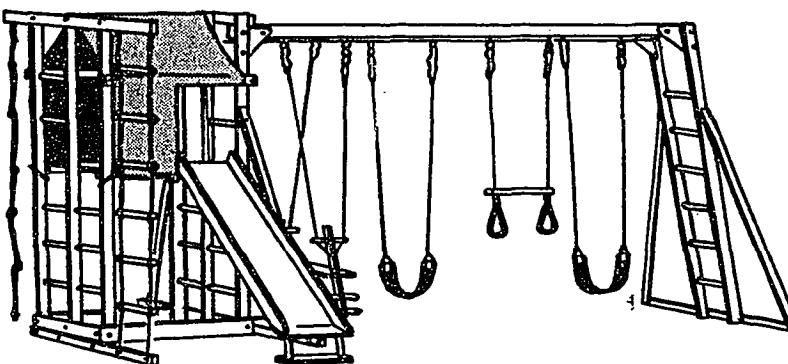
LIQUIDATORS TRUSTEES:

AUCTIONEER LIQUIDATORS, INC.

PHONE: 201-575-7782

TERMS: CASH, CHECK, VISA OR MASTER CARD

SWING INTO SPRING



FREE Color Catalog

SAVE 10% to 25% Quantities Limited

25 YEAR WARRANTY

BEST PRICES OF THE YEAR!

the wooden swing CO

WE MAKE BACKYARDS FUN

393 Route 10 E. Hanover, NJ 07936 887-0808
484 Route 17 Paramus, NJ 07652 265-5541
450 Central Park Ave. Scarsdale, NY 10583 472-7774

America's Largest Distributor of Backyard Wooden Playsets

Galleries Museums SPRING ART SHOWCASE Auctions Exhibitions

CHEZ ARTS GRAND OPENING SHOW

April 5th-May 16th

Robert Anderson Dean Howell Rick Sabato
David Adler Agnes Adler

Come Celebrate With Us
Sunday April 5th: 2-5pm
198 Closter Dock Rd., Closter, N.J. 07624
(201) 768-4441

Scherer Gallery

20th Century Contemporary Art

artists include:

- Agam
- Appel
- Barnet
- Calder
- Chagall
- Gorman
- Lindner
- Miro
- Hundertwasser
- Man Ray
- Matisse
- Picasso
- Vasarely

Wed-Sun 10-5
93 School Rd. W., Marlboro, NJ
201-536-9465

J. RICHARDS GALLERY
64 E. PALISADE AVENUE
ENGLEWOOD, N.J. 07631
201-871-1050
10-6 TUES-SAT & SUN 12-5
(15 MINUTES FROM MANHATTAN)

RICHARD SEGALMAN

PAINTINGS

OPEN TODAY 1-5

Kornbluth Gallery

7-21 Fair Lawn Avenue, Fair Lawn, N.J.
201-791-3374

20th Annual Hadassah ART SHOW & SALE

Collective Art, Sculpture, Photography & Portfolio

March 29: 1-10pm
March 30 & 31: Noon-10pm
April 1: Noon-6pm

Temple Emanu-El
756 E. Broad St.
Westfield, N.J.
Admission: \$1.50
Senior Citizens: 75c
Students: FREE