

Native Treasures Indian Arts Festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EIGHTH ANNUAL NATIVE TREASURES: INDIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

2012 Living Treasure Award Recipient Navajo (Dine) painter and jeweler Tony Abeyta

Santa Fe, New Mexico —The eight annual “Native Treasures: Indian Arts Festival” takes place Memorial Day weekend, May 26-27, 2012 at the Santa Fe Convention Center. More than 200 museum-quality artists from over 40 tribes and pueblos will showcase and sell their pottery, jewelry, glass, painting, sculpture, carvings, textiles and other art.

Proceeds from *Native Treasures* provide the primary funding for exhibits at the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture (MIAC). While the museum receives state funds for operating expenses, all exhibit funding must be raised privately. Exhibits are clearly the lifeblood of a museum and are critical in supporting artists, sharing the museum’s collection with the public, and delivering the ongoing educational mission of the institution. To emphasize the importance of exhibit support, sponsors of *Native Treasures* will also be recognized as exhibit supporters for all of the exhibits mounted at MIAC in 2012.



“The wonderful thing about shopping at *Native Treasures* is that you get to support talented Native artists and the museum at the same time,” says Karen Freeman, Co-Chair of the show. “Where else can you come home with a beautiful piece from a top-level artist and know that you also contributed to a really important institution for New Mexico? It’s a great way to get your summer started.” Weaving demonstrations by Toadlena Trading Post, an eclectic mix of music, and delicious food will add to the festive atmosphere.

"As always, we have invited a very strong group of artists, from established masters to the brightest emerging artists, all of whom are producing museum-quality work," says Jane Buchsbaum, Artist Chair. "Many of their pieces are in the permanent collection of the museum so we really enjoy being able to offer this quality of art for sale. But it's important to add that we have beautiful things in every price range." For the third year, an Emerging Artist section will feature student artists from the Poeh Center. And every year, the museum targets having new artists represent about one-third of the show so that different artists have the opportunity to participate and attendees always have something new to look forward to.

Living Treasure Award

As has been the tradition, *Native Treasures* will also honor an established master with its “Native Treasures Living Treasure Award.” This year’s recipient is famed Navajo (Dine) painter and jeweler, Tony Abeyta. Abeyta is considered to be one of the finest contemporary painters today, continually experimenting with his media and style. In addition to painting, Abeyta has recently made a foray into

jewelry as well. A large mural by Abeyta graces MIAC's gathering space and one of his paintings served as the official illustration for the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. In addition to his outstanding body of work, Abeyta has also served the community, one of the criteria for this award, through the generous donations of his work to a wide variety of non-profit organizations. He also served on the Development Committee for MIAC. Abeyta is represented locally by Blue Rain Gallery.

Friday Night Benefit

In addition to the sale on the weekend, a special benefit cocktail party will take place Friday May 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Santa Fe Convention Center. All of the artists are invited and it provides a festive atmosphere for collectors and artists to meet, mingle, and reconnect. This year, artists have been asked to create treasure boxes that will be for sale only that evening. Boxes may be made from any medium—silver, clay, wood, painted canvas, glass, etc. and artists are being encouraged to collaborate with other artists on their creations.

“We thought the idea of a unique sale on Friday night would make the evening even more special,” explains Ardith Eicher, Co-Chair of the show. “Collectors will have the chance to find a one-of-a-kind piece that wouldn't normally be in the weekend show and artists get the chance to try something new and show off a little bit.” Hors d'oeuvres and an open wine and champagne bar round out the evening. In addition, the presentation to the Living Treasure artist takes place that evening. Tickets for the Friday party are \$100 and are also available as part of *Native Treasures* sponsorships.

Native Treasures Collectors' Sale

In addition to the festival in May, *Native Treasures* organizers have announced that the third annual *Native Treasures Collectors' Sale* will take place on September 15-16, 2012. Treasure-hunters will again have the opportunity to buy Native art and jewelry from collectors selling pieces from their collection, with part of the proceeds again benefiting the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture. “This was a wonderful event this year,” says Freeman. “Collectors were able to make room for new art by selling the pieces that no longer fit into their collections and the rest of us were able to snap up great finds. And all of it benefited the museum that is such a cultural resource for our community.”

www.nativetreasures.org

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Calendar Listing & Information

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NATIVE TREASURES: INDIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

WHAT:

Native Treasures, now in its eighth year, is an invitational art show and sale featuring the best Native art in the U.S. Proceeds provide exhibit funding for the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture



Featuring

- More than 200 museum-quality artists from over 40 tribes and pueblos
- Best and brightest of the Indian art world
- Santa Fe's only museum-quality Indian art show
- Musical entertainment
- Food by Cowgirl BBQ
- Relaxed, intimate event for collectors, dealers and sightseers
- 2012 "Living Treasure" award to outstanding Navajo (Dine) painter and jeweler, Tony Abeyta

WHEN:

Saturday, May 26 & Sunday May 27, 2012
Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., \$10; Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m, Free
(Early Bird Market Saturday, 9-10 a.m., \$20)
Festival tickets available at entrance.

Friday, May 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Benefit Pre-Sale Party, offering unique "treasure boxes" created by each artist just for this evening.

Attendees will meet the artists and mingle with other collectors.

Hors d'oeuvres and wine/champagne will be served.

\$100 (includes an Early Bird ticket for Saturday).

Tickets www.ticketssantafe.org, 505-988-1234, or visit the Lensic Box Office

WHERE:

Santa Fe Convention Center at the corner of Marcy and Grant Streets; Santa Fe, New Mexico

INFO:

505.476-1250; www.nativetreasures.org

**FOR IMAGES, INTERVIEWS, PRESS PASSES & OTHER INFORMATION
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NATIVE TREASURES: INDIAN ARTS FESTIVAL JUST A FEW OF OUR WONDERFUL ARTISTS

Potters: Lonnie Vigil, Jody Naranjo, Robert Tenorio, Preston Duwyenie, Lisa Holt & Harlan Reano, Caroline Carpio, Samuel Manymules, Sharon Naranjo Garcia, Judy & Lincoln Tafoya, Kathleen Wall, Janice Ortiz, Elizabeth Manygoats, Cavan Gonzales, Jason Garcia, Goldenrod, Pahponee

Jewelers: Victoria Adams, Gaussoin family, Mike Bird-Romero, Maria Samora, Ernest & Veronica Benally, Cody Sanderson, Michael Horse, Norbert Peshlakai, Fritz Casuse, Al Joe, Michael Roanhorse, Keri Ataumbi, Darryl & Rebecca Begay, Richard & Jared Chavez, Anthony Lovato, Ken Romero, Pat Pruitt, Althea Cajero, Steve LaRance, Benson Manygoats, Liz Wallace

Painters: Tony Abeyta, Mateo Romero, Benjamin Harjo, Jr., Thomas Begay, Dolores Purdy Corcoran, Aaron Freeland, Ronald Chee, Marla Allison, Nocona Burgess, Raymond Nordwall, Peterson Yazzie, Yellowman

Sculptors: Roxanne Swentzell, Upton Ethelbah, Ed Archie NoiseCat, Stephen Wall, Laura Fragua-Cota, Alvin John, Joe Cajero

Textiles/Baskets: Toadlena Trading Post, Mona Laughing, Penny Singer, Carol Naranjo

Diverse: Kenneth Williams, Orlando Dugi, and Craig Kelly (beadwork), Delbridge Honanie and Spencer Nutima (carving), Spooner & Ira Lujan (glass), Walter BigBee (photography), Black Eagle (warrior art), Brenda Lampman (leatherwork)

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