

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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## NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART TO PREMIERE

### OUTSTANDING ART OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN FRONTIER, MAY 24

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Art of the American Indian Frontier: The Collecting of Chandler and Pohrt, to premiere at the National Gallery of Art May 24, 1992 through January 24, 1993, will reassemble for the first time 152 of the most important objects in this unparalleled collection of American Indian art. The exhibition will reveal the dramatic and dynamic character of art produced by the Woodland and Plains Indians in the nineteenth century. This is the fifth National Gallery exhibition since 1943 that has been devoted entirely to North American Indian art.

Art of the American Indian Frontier was organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts in association with the National Gallery of Art and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the city of Detroit, the state of Michigan, and the Founders Society Detroit Institute of Arts.

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"We are very pleased to be able to present this magnificent assemblage of objects from the Chandler-Pohrt collection," said J. Carter Brown, director, National Gallery of Art. "Art of the American Indian Frontier will help us to better understand the constantly evolving and rich cultural heritage of American Indians."

The co-curators of the exhibition are David W. Penney, associate curator, department of African, Oceanic, and New World cultures, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and George P. Horse Capture, a member of the Gros Ventre tribe and formerly the curator for the Plains Indian Museum at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

Art of the American Indian Frontier will feature a wide range of nineteenth-century decorative, utilitarian, and ceremonial objects, including feather headdresses; moccasins; leather and textiles; beadwork; domestic items such as cradles, trunks, bowls, and spoons; pipes; weaponry; and pictographic engravings and drawings. The exhibition will be divided into two geographic sections: the Eastern Woodlands and the Great Plains. Each section will develop chronologically, beginning with the art of the end of the fur trade era (1790-1850) and closing with the era of relocation and confinement to reservations (1830-1900). Special sections will illustrate how the arts kept pace with rapid changes in historical events and functioned to maintain a sense of Indian identity in the face of increasing pressure to change.

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The Chandler-Pohrt collection of more than 4,000 objects was assembled by Milford G. Chandler (1889-1981) and Richard A. Pohrt (b. 1911). Their early individual collections were assembled by the two men without formal academic training in ethnography and without the resources of great wealth. Chandler's and Pohrt's commitment and knowledge stemmed from their associations with Native American people. Chandler established close relationships with families among the Potawatomi, Mesquakie, and Miami communities of the Midwest, while the younger Pohrt formed attachments to the Gros Ventre of Fort Belknap, Montana.

Today most of the Chandler-Pohrt Collection is dispersed among several institutions: the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, the Cranbrook Institute of Science, the Fort Wayne Military Museum, the Flint Institute of Arts, the Field Museum of Natural History, and the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution.

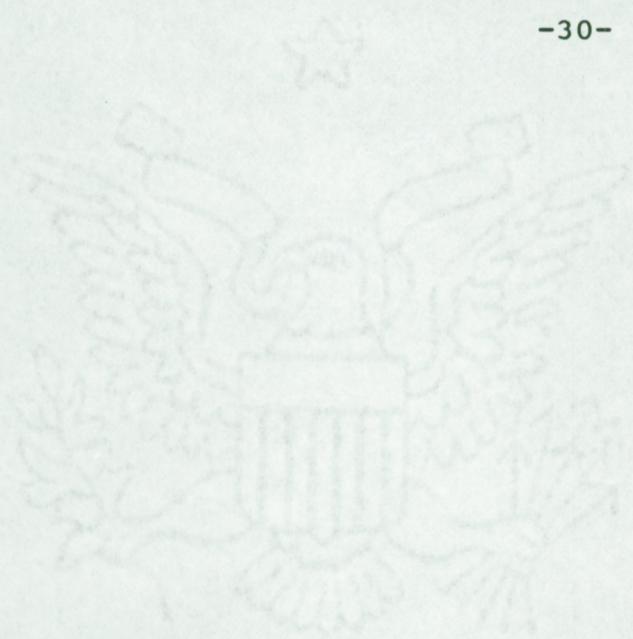
The exhibition catalogue, Native American Art from the Chandler-Pohrt Collection, will be co-published by the Detroit Institute of Arts and the University of Washington Press. It will include color illustrations of 220 objects from the collections, historical photographs, and essays by Penney, Horse Capture, Chandler, and Pohrt.

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After it leaves the National Gallery, the exhibition will travel to the Seattle Art Museum (March 11 - May 9, 1993), the the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming (June 18 - September 12, 1993), and the Detroit Institute of Arts (October 17, 1993 - February 6, 1994).

Past National Gallery exhibitions devoted entirely to North American Indian art include: Navaho Pollen and Sand Painting by Miss Maude Oakes, November 21 - December 12, 1943; Contemporary American Indian Painting, November 8 - December 1953; The Far North: Two Thousand Years of American Eskimo and Indian Art, March 8 - May 15, 1973; and Ancient Art of the American Woodland Indians, March 17 - August 4, 1985.



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