



EMORY

MICHAEL C.  
CARLOS  
MUSEUM

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**EXHIBITION “INDIGENOUS BEAUTY: MASTERWORKS OF AMERICAN INDIAN  
ART FROM THE DIKER COLLECTION” PREMIERING IN THE SOUTHEAST AT  
THE CARLOS MUSEUM**

**On view from October 10, 2015 through January 3, 2016**

Drawn from the celebrated Native American art collection of Charles and Valerie Diker, *Indigenous Beauty: Masterworks of American Indian Art from the Diker Collection* is organized by the American Federation of Arts (AFA) and features 122 masterworks representing First Nations peoples across the North American continent.

*Indigenous Beauty* emphasizes three interrelated themes—diversity, beauty, and knowledge—that relate both to the artworks’ original Native contexts and to the ways in which the objects might be experienced by visitors in a contemporary museum setting. The exhibition is organized into ten clusters with the objects in each cluster demonstrating common, formal and functional qualities. The groupings are based primarily on geographic and cultural factors, allowing the viewer to perceive the impact of historical events as well as stylistic shifts over the course of decades or centuries. The range of work represented includes ancient ivories from the Bering Strait region; Yup’ik and Aleut masks from the Western Arctic; Southwest pottery; sculptural objects from the Eastern Woodlands; decorative clothing from Eastern and Plains First Nations peoples; pictographic arts of the Plains; sculpture and weaving of the Northwest Coast; and Western baskets.

The diversity of Native artistry is borne out by the wide range of styles exhibited by hundreds of unique groups whose languages, mythologies, and customs have evolved over the centuries. Artists are identified as members of a great variety of First Nations each a product of deep and intertwined native histories. These rich backgrounds inform the objects; some are rooted in particular episodes in the ancient past, while others stem from historic challenges and experiences. Together, these captivating objects and their individual stories convey the extraordinary breadth of Native American experience in North America.

“We are extremely excited to mount our first major show of Native North American art here at the Carlos,” says museum curator Rebecca Bailey Stone. “An initiative was launched in 2012 to organize small shows in one gallery from this area, but this exhibition will impress everyone with its sheer breadth, diversity, and beauty.”

Visitors to the exhibition will learn how cultural knowledge is imbedded in a work of art, being passed down and refined over the generations as artists learn from their elders’ techniques. Over the last few decades, increased scholarship and closer collaborations between museums and Native communities have resulted in the recovery of knowledge about how objects were made, provenance details, and the ways in which the objects may have been used and understood.

*Indigenous Beauty* media kit: [View/Download](#)

*Indigenous Beauty* in Atlanta was made possible by the Thalia & Michael C. Carlos Foundation, the Thalia and Chris Carlos Foundation

**About the Michael C. Carlos Museum**

The Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets art and artifacts from antiquity to the present in order to provide unique opportunities for education and enrichment in the community, and to promote interdisciplinary teaching and research at Emory University. The Carlos Museum is one of the Southeast's premier museums with collections of art from Greece, Rome, Egypt, Near East, Nubia, the Americas, Africa, and Asia, as well as a collection of works on paper from the Renaissance to the present. For location and admission information, visit [carlos.emory.edu/visit/hours-admission](http://carlos.emory.edu/visit/hours-admission). [www.carlos.emory.edu](http://www.carlos.emory.edu)

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