

THE OLD WEST • THE OLD WEST • THE OLD WEST • THE OLD WEST



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### Mark Blackburn: The State Of The Market Place



Colima, Protoclassic, circa 100 BCE-250 CE, 9¼ inches tall, 5 inches long. Provenance: Private collection, Oceanside, Calif. \$4,900.

HONOLULU — It's been a while since I have written something so I thought I would talk about the state of the current market place. Many prestigious and well-known shows will not happen or have not happened this year, including the Marin Native American Show, San Francisco Tribal (virtual only) and lastly one of my favorites, the London Tribal Art Fair, where you had a lot of amazing exhibitors and a place where you could always find undiscovered masterpieces. The contributing factors are fairly obvious with good fresh material being harder and harder to find and the aging-out of the dealers who exhibit at these shows. This is one of the main reasons I have focused primarily on my website as shows are not only very expensive to do and fairly non-interesting, with two exceptions: Brian Lebel's Old West Show in Mesa, Ariz., which is a true standout, along with arguably the best show in my opinion in the United States. The other show is the Great Southwestern Antique Show in Albuquerque, N.M., on August 5 and 6. The Albuquerque show always has a tre-



Rare John K. Hillers photo of an Acoma pueblo, 1871-72, albumen photo on original card, 16 by 20 inches. Provenance: Maine trade, \$4,400.



Tlingit salmon rattle, circa 1890, 5-3/8 inches tall, 19½ inches long. This sculpture has a warm, old patina. Lots of wear is present towards the tail, which is most likely where it was "rattled." In all the years of handling this type of art, I have never seen another. Used in a Potlatch Ceremony, it would certainly be interesting to go back in time and see this great object in use. Label on inside reads: "Chief Sunny Hearts Lodge – Between Kassan and Kanta Bay." The original bindings and pebbles are missing. \$11,500.



Hand-carved calabash Umeke, Kou wood, Eighteenth Century, 5-1/8 inches high, 9½ inches diameter. Provenance: Private collection, Honolulu. A beautiful outstanding bowl with numerous native repairs. \$3,900.

mendous energy and a sense of discovery; in fact I bought a first-phase Navajo chief's blanket in the parking lot last year. These two shows are standouts and as always, I will be exhibiting at these two now and in the future. The Santa Fe Whitehawk Show, which has been a historic show for decades, has changed hands and will also happen in August; I am planning on exhibiting there.

In closing, the market is tightening and even the major auction houses are having a tough time finding fresh, new and interesting material. I will continue in my quest to find new material as always with my buy ads running across the US and two upcoming trips to Europe for Parcou Du Monde and Sydney and Melbourne for the Oceanic Art Society events.

Happy collecting and feel free to contact me if you have any interesting material for sale or have any website enquiries.

Mark Blackburn
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or www.artblackburn.com.

#### Setting The Standard: The Fred Harvey Company & Its Legacy

SANTA FE, N.M. — Will Rogers noted that Fred Harvey "kept the West in food — and wives." But the company's Harvey Girls are by no means its only legacy. From the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway's 1879 arrival in New Mexico to the 1970 demolition of Albuquerque's Alvarado Hotel, the Fred Harvey name and its company's influence have been felt across New Mexico, not to mention the American West. The company and its New Mexico establishments served as the stage on which people such as Mary Colter were able to fashion an "authentic" tourist experience, along with Herman Schweizer who helped drive the direction of Native American jewelry and crafts as an industry.

On view at the New Mexico History Museum through December 31, 2024, is "Setting the Standard: The Fred Harvey Company and Its Legacy," which uses artifacts from the museum's collection,



Eating House gong.

images from the Palace of the Governors Photo Archives and loans from other museums and private collectors. Focusing on the rise of the Fred Harvey Company as a family business and events that transpired specifically in the Land of Enchantment, the tale will leave visitors with an understanding of how the Harvey experience resonates in our Southwest

"People don't always realize that many of the turning points in the company's history are specific to New Mexico," said Meredith Davidson, curator of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Southwest collections. "The Harvey Girls were invented in Raton. Native American jewelry, pottery, blankets and other goods were shaped by sales at the Alvarado's Indian Room in Albuquerque. Tourists experienced 'the authentic Southwest' through Indian Detours that left from Santa Fe's La Fonda Hotel and countless others."

Artifacts in the exhibit include: the original Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway track sign for Albuquerque's Alvarado Hotel; Harvey Girl uniforms; furniture designed by famed architect and interior decorator Mary Colter; hand-stamped Navajo spoons; Fred Harvey's original datebook and an iconic painting of the man behind the empire. Other artifacts include a gong similar to ones that rang travelers to their meals (this one hung in the company's Chicago office) and an original Doris Lee painting while helping to plan MGM's *The Harvey Girls*, starring Judy Garland. The image Lee created was adopted by the Harvey Company and used on menus at El Navajo in Gallup and El Tovar at the Grand Canyon.

The New Mexico History Museum is at 113 Lincoln Avenue. For information, 505-476-5200 or www.nmhistory.org.



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Oscar Howe, "Koda, Nape Ciuza" ("Friend, I Shake Your Hand"), 1966, gouache on paper. Price realized: \$225,000.



An extraordinary Tlingit "Oyster Catcher" rattle. Price realized: \$46,875.

## John Moran Auctioneers Proves Resounding Success From The Classic To The Contemporary

By Brenda Smith, John Moran Auctioneers

LOS ANGELES — For more than 50 years John Moran Auctioneers has developed an esteemed reputation for offering Western art and objects, but the sale of a textile changed their position in the industry. Back in Summer 2012, a Navajo textile, known as "The Chantland Blanket" brought in a staggering \$1.8 million against an estimate of \$100/200,000! This auction record tripled the previous high-water mark for a similar Nineteenth Century wearing blanket and remains today as the highest price ever paid for a Native American weaving. Fewer than a dozen Navajo First Phase blankets are extant, making this rare textile a true Navajo masterwork. The blanket is now on view in the permanent collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

This was a turning point for Moran's, giving them the title of best in the business — specifically when it comes to American Western art and artifacts. The event also reignited the market post-recession, increasing momentum and interest, thus allowing Moran's the opportunity to offer three dedicated Art of the American West auctions a year. These include classic and contemporary works... and everything in between.

Continuing the success of their textile results is shown in the recent sale of a late Nineteenth Century Navajo pictorial blanket. Woven in red, cream, grey, black and yellow wool with alternating bands of horse and train motifs, and serrated zigzags, this example was valued at \$6/8,000, achieving a final price of \$12,500. Moran's once again proves their unwavering position as a leader in the category.

In addition to textiles, buyers have long gravitated to their vast selection of impressive American Indian jewelry. One example comes from their June 2023 sale, a Hopi gold stone inlay ring by the renowned jewelry designer Charles Loloma. Starting with a \$2/3,000 estimate, this 14K gold ring was made with a gorgeous multi-stone sculptural cobblestone inlay that included lapis, turquoise and coral. Collectors showed major interest in this piece, bringing the winning bid to \$8,125.

John Moran Auctioneers continues to experience above-estimate results for historical Western art like classic bronzes and Mission baskets, as demonstrated by the polychrome California Mission pictorial basket. Following the March 2022 white-glove sale of the incomparable James M. Cole Collection where a rattlesnake basket sold for a whopping \$29,250, the March 2023 auction offered another reptile depicted weaving. This example, with an estimate of \$5/7,000, was a coiled rectangular form bowl with a rattlesnake motif banding the walls with the heads joining at the center, which sold for \$8,750.

Two works from Oscar Howe highlighted the summer auction with a combined total of \$550,000. Best known for his innovative and expressive depictions of traditional Dakota culture and mythology, his work was recently exhibited in 2022, a major exhibition titled "Dakota Modern: The Art of Oscar Howe" that opened at the National Museum of the American Indian, New York City, which reintroduced Howe's work to contemporary audiences.



Charles Loloma (Hopi, 1921-1991), a Hopi gold stone inlay ring, late Twentieth Century. Price realized: \$8,125.



A Navajo pictorial blanket (Diné, Late Nineteenth Century;). Price realized: \$12,500.

Lot 1071 tripled the world record, holding until lot 1072 sold and quintupled the previous record when it sold at \$325,325. Howe's market is one to pay close attention to in the coming years.

In the category of Native American artifacts, the auction house has recently acquired and sold a Hopi Katsina figure and an extraordinary Tlingit 'Oyster Catcher' rattle. Coming from Polacca, Ariz., was a Hopi katsina figure, circa 1913-18, with an estimate of \$3/5,000. The standing katsina (kachina) figure of carved cottonwood, having traces of polychrome painted clothing and face mask affixed to a modern black base brought in an exciting \$10,400 in Moran's March 2023 sale. Their October 2022 auction presented an exquisite Tlingit "Oyster Catcher" rattle dating pre-1900. This delicately carved polychrome wood rattle is in the form of an Oyster Catcher (a large, obvious and noisy plover-like bird). With a \$10/15,000 estimate, this piece, created with a carved and polychrome bone beak and multiple inset abalone shell accents, and held together with sinew lashes, achieved an outstanding price realized of \$46,875!

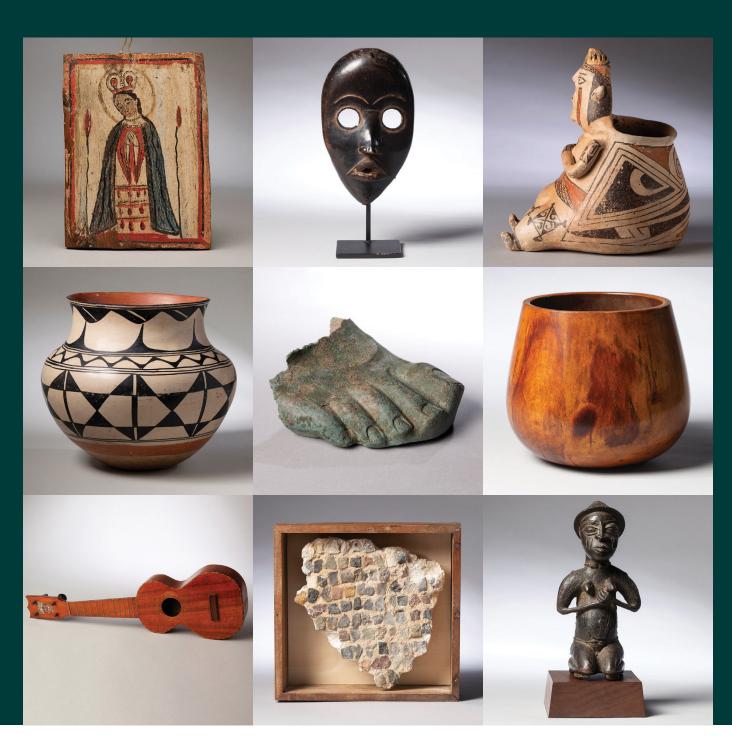
The reputation of John Moran Auctioneers as being an industry leader would not be possible without the knowledge of its department heads. Maranda Moran is vice president and the Silver, Western and American Indian Art Specialist. Since 2003, Moran has held many positions at Moran's, currently as the go-to source for Western and Native American fine and decorative art. She holds a degree in History/Art History from UCLA and has additional post-baccalaureate studies in Interior Architecture. "My interest in Indigenous arts from North America stemmed from my childhood in Southern California, free to roam the hillsides and stream beds for materials to build, weave and imagine into other forms. This foundation led to a love of all things where the native materials are the focal point. My role at Moran's is rewarding in that every day presents a new and wonderful opportunity to bring artwork to market and offer them new homes where they will be equally cherished until it comes time again to be passed along."

Sally Andrew, the Silver, Western, and American Indian cataloger, joined the company in 2021. A true expert in the field, Andrew attributes her historical knowledge to two decades of practical experience working as a textile conservator in the UK, and the specialized training from the post-graduate diploma she earned there. Like Moran, her undergraduate studies were completed at UCLA in Art History, but with a concentration in Native North American arts. "I enjoy using my continually evolving knowledge to discover and highlight potential gems in every auction I catalog. Bringing the masterful techniques and beautiful compositions of unique and important handmade works of art to a wider audience is thoroughly satisfying." Her background, coupled with her experience, gives Andrew a distinct advantage when reviewing textiles, baskets, beadwork and the other Indigenous objects of North America.

John Moran Auctioneers is at 145 East Walnut Avenue. For additional information, 626-793-1833 or www. johnmoran.com.

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#### **Exhibitions and Events of Note**

#### **MUSEUMS**

Ongoing

Ongoing
Dazzling Array: The Richard A. Gates
Collection of Native American Jewelry
The Gather — A Portrait of the
American West — Scott T. Baxter
Reel or Reality? Storied Histories of
Film's Indigenous Cultures and Cowboys
Scottsdale's Museum of the West Scottsdale's Museum of the West Scottsdale, Ariz. www.scottsdalemuseumwest.org

In the Service Of: American Indian Veteran Artists and Tributes Substance of Stars Heard Museum Phoenix, Ariz. www.heard.org

The Thaw Collection of American Indian Art Fenimore Art Museum Cooperstown, N.Y. www.fenimoreartmuseum.org

Imagined Wests Waterways Art of the West Autry Museum of the American West Los Angeles, Calif. www.theautry.org

The Northwest Studio Jewelry Art Display
Chihuly at Tacoma Art Museum
Metaphor into Form: Art in the Era
of the Pilchuck Glass School Tacoma Art Museum Tacoma, Wash. www.tacomaartmuseum.org

American Art: The Stories We Carry Pacific Species Art and Life Along the Northwest Coast Seattle Art Museum Seattle, Wash. www.seattleartmuseum.com

Native Artists Make Toys Rooted: Samples of Southwest Baskets People, Places, and Perspectives Medicinal Healer, An Artist to Remember: Charlie Willeto From Converse to Native Canvas
Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian Santa Fe, N.M. www.wheelwright.org

Spirit Totems: Sculpture by Herb Alpert National Wildlife Museum of Art Jackson, Wyo. www.wildelifeart.org

**Americans** Return to the Place: Algonquian Peoples of the Chesapeake National Museum of the American Indian Washington, DC www.americanindian.si.edu

Native New York Ancestral Connections
Infinity of Nations
National Museum of the American Indian New York City www.americanindian.si.edu

Discovering Russell: The Mackay Collection A Collector's Vision C.M. Russell Museum Great Falls, Mont. www.cmrussell.org

The Palace Seen and Unseen: A Convergence of History and Archaeology The Massacre of Don Pedro Villasur Setting the Standard: The Fred Harvey Company and its Legacy Segesser Hide Paintings New Mexico History Museum Santa Fe, N.M. www.nmhistorymuseum.org

To July 23 The Story of China Poblana
The Autry Museum of the
American West Los Angeles, Calif. www.theautry.org

Italy's Legendary Cowboys of the Maremma: Photographs by Gabrielle Saveri Buffalo Bill Center of the West Cody, Wy. www.centerofthewest.org

To August 6

Changing Views: The Photography of Dorothea Lange Eiteljorg Museum Indianapolis, Ind. www.eiteljorg.org

Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum Oklahoma City, Okla. www.nationalcowboymuseum.com

To August 13

San José Tiles: The Art & Artist Texas Art: Kinship and Culture Witte Museum San Antonio, Texas www.wittemuseum.org

Booth Artists' Guild Annual Exhibition Booth Western Art Museum Cartersville, Ga. www.boothmuseum.org

To September 3

Cowgirl Up! Art from the Other Half of the West Desert Caballeros Western Museum Wickenberg, Ariz. www.westernmuseum.org

To October 1

Mexican Folk Art: Artesanía del Pueblo Desert Caballeros Western Museum Wickenberg, Ariz. www.westernmuseum.org

Fiesta: At World of Inspiration Witte Museum San Antonio, Texas www.wittemuseum.org

To October 15

Widewest
National Cowboy & Western
Heritage Museum
Oklahoma City, Okla.
www.nationalcowboymuseum.com

Barbara van Cleve: Women of the West Booth Western Art Museum Cartersville, Ga. www.boothmuseum.org

**To October 18** American Farmer

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum Oklahoma City, Okla. www.nationalcowboymuseum.com

To October 21

Always in Relation: Artwork from the Schultz Collection Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian Santa Fe, N.M. www.wheelwright.org

To October 22

Alfred Jacob Miller: Revisiting the Rendezvous — in Scotland and Today Tony Foster: Watercolour Diaries from the Green River
Buffalo Bill Center of the
West Cody, Wy. www.centerofthewest.org

To October 30

Radical Abstraction Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Santa Fe, N.M. www.okeeffemuseum.org

**To October 31**Honoring Tradition and Innovation: 100
Years of Santa Fe's Indian Market, 1922-2022 New Mexico History Museum Santa Fe, N.M. www.nmhistorymuseum.org

To November 12

Reimagining Conservation National Wildlife Museum of Art Jackson, Wyo. www.wildelifeart.org

Courtney M. Leonard: Logbook 2004-2023 Hecksher Museum of Art Huntington, N.Y. www.hecksher.org

To November 26

Laura Wilson: Lambshead Ranch Revisited Eiteljorg Museum Indianapolis, Ind. www.eiteljorg.org

To November 30

Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces National Museum of the American Indian Washington, DC www.americanindian.si.edu

**To January 1, 2024**Shelley Niro: 100 Year Itch
National Museum of the American Indian
New York City www.americanindian.si.edu

**To January 7** *Mi Cultura: The Photography of Al Rendon* Witte Museum San Antonio, Texas www.wittemuseum.org

The Art of Ben Aleck Nevada Museum of Art Reno, Nev. www.nevadaart.org

To January 14
On Native Land: Landscapes from the Haub Family Collection
Tacoma Art Museum
Tacoma, Wash. www.tacomaartmuseum.org

California Stars: Huivaniūs Pütsiv Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian Santa Fe, N.M. www.wheelwright.org

**To February 1**Anti-Gravity: Shasti O'Leary Soudant
Annual Theme Exhibition: Heroes
Rockwell Museum Corning, N.Y. www.rockwellmuseum.org

**To February 4**The North Star Changes: Works by Brenda Mallory Heard Museum Phoenix, Ariz. www.heard.org

To February 18

Open for Business National Cowboy & Western Heritage Oklahoma City, Okla. www.nationalcowboymuseum.com

To March 27

Georgia O'Keeffe: Making a Life Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Santa Fe, N.M. www.okeeffemuseum.org

**To March 31**Sharing Honors and Burdens:
Renwick Invitational 2023 Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery Washington, DC www.americanart.si.edu/visit/renwick

Native History is Made Here Eiteljorg Museum Indianapolis, Ind. www.eiteljorg.org

To March 17

Native Portraiture: Power and Perception Places to Call Home: Settlements in the West Winter in the West Tacoma Art Museum Tacoma, Wash. www.tacomaartmuseum.org

To April 22

Indeterminate Beauty Heard Museum Phoenix, Ariz. www.heard.org

Nations at War! Field Sketches of a Pawnee Warrior National Cowboy & Western Heritage Oklahoma City, Okla. www.nationalcowboymuseum.com

To July 16

Horizons: Weaving Between the Lines with Diné Textiles Museum of Indian Arts & Culture Santa Fe, N.M. www.indianartsandculture.org

**To November 26** Yellowstone In Color: Moran and Prang Print the West Fred Jones Jr Museum of Art University of Oklahoma Norman, Okla. www.ou.edu

To January 25, 2025

Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations National Museum of the American Indian Washington, DC www.americanindian.si.edu

**To April 1**Silver and Stones: Collaborations in Southwest Jewelry New Mexico History Museum Santa Fe. N.M. www.nmhistorymuseum.org

To April 3

The Santos of New Mexico New Mexico History Museum Santa Fe, N.M. www.nmhistorymuseum.org

**AUCTIONS** 

July 21

Art of the West Showcase Auction Heritage Auctions Dallas, Texas www.ha.com

July 22

Western Treasures: Property to Benefit the Couse-Sharp Historic Site Heritage Auctions Dallas, Texas www.ha.com

August 1

California Living
John Moran
Monrovia, Calif. www.johnmoran.com

August 26

Scottsdale Art Auction Scottsdale, Ariz. www.scottsdaleartauction.com

October 24

Made in Mexico John Moran Monrovia, Calif. www.johnmoran.com

November 14

California and American Fine Art John Moran Monrovia, Calif. www.johnmoran.com

#### **SHOWS & MARKETS**

July 28-30

71st Annual Traditional Spanish Market Spanish Colonial Arts Society Santa Fe, N.M. www.spanishcolonial.org

**August 19-20** 

SWAIA Santa Fe Indian Market Preview August 18 Historic Plaza Santa Fe, N.M. www.swaia.org

November 10-19

Objects of Art Santa Fe Kim Martindale and John Morris Santa Fe, N.M. www.virtual objects of arts antafe.com Brian Lebel's 34th Annual

Cody Old West Show & Auction



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