

ART OF THE HUICHOL INDIANS

ROUGHLY TEN TO FOURTEEN THOUSAND HUICHOL INDIANS OCCUPY THE SIERRA MADRE OF NORTH CENTRAL MEXICO. RELIGION AND MAGIC PERMEATES ALL OF LIFE FOR THE HUICHOL AND ART IS PRAYER AND DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH THE SACRED REALM. TO THE HUICHOLS RELIGION IS NOT A PART OF LIFE, IT IS LIFE. THEIR ART IS A DIRECT EXTENSION OF THEIR RELIGION AND IT IS MADE NOT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF DECORATION BUT TO GIVE PROFOUND EXPRESSION TO CONCEPTS OF SPIRITUAL BELIEFS.



TRADITIONAL HUICHOL ART WHETHER IT BE METICULOUS BEADWORK, YARN PAINTINGS, MASKS, VOTIVE BOWLS AND ARROWS OR STRIKING EMBROIDERED AND WOVEN PERSONAL ADORNMENTS ARE BEAUTIFUL NOT ONLY FROM THE AESTHETIC STANDPOINT BUT FROM THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AS WELL.

THE CONSUMPTION OF HUICHOL ART BY TOURISTS, SERIOUS COLLECTORS AND MUSEUMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD HAS GROWN RAPIDLY IN THE PAST TEN YEARS. IT IS A PRECIOUS LEGACY WORTHY OF RESPECT AND PRESERVATION BECAUSE IT REMAINS SO UNMISTAKENLY NATIVE AMERICAN IN A LARGER WORLD THAT BECOMES INCREASINGLY MORE UNIFORM WITH EACH PASSING DAY.



HUICHOL COLORS AND SYMBOLS

COLORS

- RED - THE EAST
- BLACK - PACIFIC OCEAN + LAND OF THE DEAD
- GREEN - HEAVEN
- BLUE - THE SOUTH, WATER RAIN
- WHITE - CLOUDS
- YELLOW, ORANGE - THE SUN

SYMBOLS

- SCORPIONS - STINGING, EVIL
- DEER - PEYOTE
- RABBIT - FERTILITY
- SERPENT - FERTILITY, RAIN, LIGHTENING, RIVERS
- DOG - ANCESTRAL MOTHER
- FLOWER - PEYOTE
- CORNSTALK - PEYOTE
- EAGLE - DIVINE GUARDIAN
- 2 HEADED EAGLE - GOD LOOKING ALL WAYS AT ONCE
- BUTTERFLY - GOOD FORTUNE
- SUN - FATHER SUN, MASTER OF HEAVENS, WHO BRINGS LIGHT TO THE WORLD.

- PEYOTE CACTUS - SYMBOL OF LIFE, HEALTH, SUCCESS, LUCK + SHAMANIC POWERS. A GIFT FROM THE GODS TO ENLIGHTEN LIVES + BRING PEOPLE INTO THE MYSTICAL REALM.
- SHAMAN - AMBASSADOR TO THE GODS. ANOTHER NAME IS "MARA-AKAME", SPIRITUAL HEALER. PRESIDES OVER CEREMONIES, RECEIVES DIVINE MESSAGES, CURES THE SICK, INTERPRETS DREAMS.
- MUIERI - HEALING WANDS FOUND IN SHAMAN'S MEDICINE BASKET. MADE OF EAGLE OR HAWK FEATHERS ATTACHED TO CEREMONIAL ARROWS.
- BOUND BEADED BOWLS - OFFERINGS DURING CEREMONIES FOR HEALTH PROTECTION + ABUNDANCE. SYMBOLS REPRESENT ATTRIBUTES OF GODS + GODDESSES.
- TACUTSI - GODDESS OF LIFE, "GRAND MOTHER GROWTH" FROM WHOM ALL LIFE EMERGES, PLANTS, ANIMALS AND HUMANS. SHE TEACHES THEM ALL A WAY TO LIVE THAT PLEASES THE DEITIES.

La Fuente
IMPORTS

