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dailynews.com
Saturday 11/15/08

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A world of art

Learn, explore, collect at Asian and Tribal Art Show

By Sandra Barrera
Staff Writer

Anthony Davis prefers not to be called a "dealer" of 19th-century photography. Instead, the 65-year-old British expat from Studio City says he fancies "temporary custodian" when it comes to the buying and selling of his vintage collection.

"I'm a realist," he says. "At some point or other, we're going to die and they're going to go to somebody else, or we're going to give them away, or we're going to sell them."

This weekend, Davis joins some 60 international "collectors" and galleries in setting up shop at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium for the 18th annual Los Angeles Asian and Tribal Arts Show.

preview >

THE 18TH ANNUAL LOS ANGELES ASIAN AND TRIBAL ARTS SHOW

The two-day event that kicks off today is one of the West's leading vetted art shows, drawing novices and serious collectors to explore the array of antique, artifact and contemporary art from the far reaches of the world.

"It's good for people to just come and learn about the different cultures," says Liz Lees, the show's producer. "If somebody is not familiar with a certain culture, the dealers are always happy to talk about these things."

Think Chinese snuff bottles, Bornean shields, Mughal art, aboriginal paintings.

"If someone goes to the

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> **What:** A two-day event that features top international dealers of art and antiques from Asia, Africa, Indonesia, Philippines and the Americas.

> **When:** 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. today; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

> **Where:** Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St., Santa Monica.

> **General Admission:** \$12
www.caskeylees.com.

Clockwise from above: Samurai, Japan, circa 1870. Indian Beauty, Port of Spain, Trinidad, circa 1895, by Felix Morin. Ancient Brahminical Temple in Fort Gwallor, India, circa 1868, by Samuel Bourne.

Silver jewelry exhibit a highlight

Chinese embroidery. Woodblock prints. Japanese vases.

People have been collecting Asian art for centuries. While it continues to be a strong field, the traditional art of Africa, New Guinea and the Americas is gaining ground.

"We've run tribal art shows for 25 years, but it's becoming more and more popular with people who buy and collect contemporary art," says Liz Lees, producer of this weekend's Los Angeles Asian and Tribal Arts Show.

Visitors to today's show at the Santa

Monica Civic Auditorium can shop exhibitor booths for ceremonial shawls, clay figures and, yes, Asian art.

In addition to the marketplace, the show features an educational lecture series and a special exhibit featuring select pieces of silver jewelry by modernist silversmith Antonio Pineda.

The Pineda exhibit, on loan from the collection of Cindy Tietze and Stuart Hodash of Los Angeles, is reflective of the exhibit "Silver Seduction: The Art of Mexican Modernist Antonio Pineda," on view at the Fowler Museum at UCLA

through March 15.

"Initially, his sense of style drew upon local traditions in jewelry and imagery from Mexico's pre-Columbian past, but it wasn't long after he established his own studio that he really began to make a name for the kind of modern work that he is today known for," says Betsy Quick, director of education at the Fowler Museum. "His work is very much a departure from what

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Left: Kota reliquary figure, 19th century, courtesy of Joel Cooner Gallery. Below: Mayan polychrome cylinder vessel, central lowlands, circa A.D. 550-950.

