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Saturday, November 15, 2008

Best of Pasadena, Whittier and the San Gabriel Valley

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Arts show offers look at Asian, tribal cultures

By Sandra Barrera
Staff Writer

Close to 60 international collectors and galleries have set up shop at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium for the 18th annual Los Angeles Asian and Tribal Arts Show this weekend.

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," said 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.

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," Lees said.

Visitors to today's show at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium can shop exhibitor booths for ceremonial shawls, clay figures and, yes, Asian art.

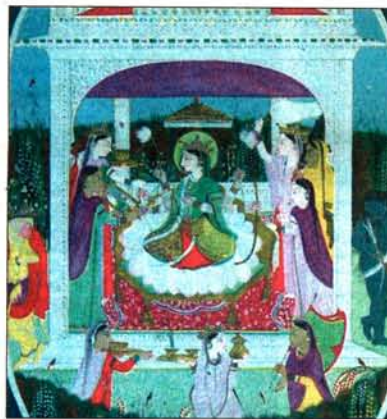
In addition to the marketplace, the show features a lecture series and a special exhibit featuring select pieces of silver jewelry by modernist silversmith Antonio Pineda.

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



Left: Mayan polychrome cylinder vessel from the central lowlands, dated 550-950 A.D.



Painting of Goddess Sarasvati from Kangra, India.

modern work that he is today known for," bold, modern, heavy and simple pieces, said Betsy Quick, director of education at the Fowler Museum.

Here are just a few of the local exhibitors visitors will see this weekend:

THE 18TH ANNUAL LOS ANGELES ASIAN AND TRIBAL ART SHOW

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

11 a.m. to 7 p.m. today; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St.,
Santa Monica
\$12
www.caskeylees.com

Aarin Richard Tribal Art

Topanga (by appointment only). (310) 455-2871. www.aarinrichardtribal.com.

Description: Richard got the bug for American Indian artifacts as a boy while finding arrowheads near his grandfather's Ohio farm. Today the collector/dealer specializes in late-19th-century Navajo textiles, such as the high-priced serapes he'll be selling this weekend alongside Great Plains material.

F. Sule One Co.

Where: 1335 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. (626) 795-1335.

Description: Co-owner Leslee Leong's grandfather opened this family-run Asian antiques business in 1888. The store was featured in the book "On Gold Mountain: A Chinese American Experience." Its main emphasis? Sculpture, like the three Buddhas that will be featured at its booth through Sunday. Among these is a 6 1/2-foot-tall, 17th-century standing Buddha priced at \$40,000.

Maestros de Taxco

Where: Newbury Park. By appointment only. (805) 573-3883. www.maestrosdetaxco.com.

Description: The silver jewelry of modernist silversmith Antonio Pineda is a highlight of this weekend's show.

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