

Trading Post Times

River Trading Post

CORN, BEANS AND SQUASH

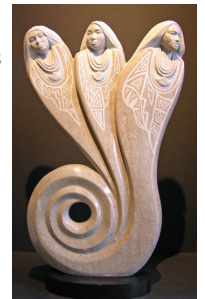
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Corn, Beans and Squash. *The Three Sisters*. By the time European settlers arrived in America in the early 1600s, the Iroquois had been growing the “three sisters” for over three centuries. The vegetable trio sustained the Native Americans both physically and spiritually. In legend, the plants were a gift from the gods, always to be grown together, eaten together, and celebrated together.



From a hard chunk of Tennessee marble, renowned sculptor Cliff Fragua has masterfully created his vision of *Three Sisters*. Fragua’s sculpture depicts the three sisters emerging from the earth to provide sustenance to the people by growing the precious corn, beans and squash.



For nearly twenty years, Fragua and River Trading Post have worked closely together. He has created many pieces at River Trading Post, Scottsdale as our Artist in Residence, and is the only Native American to have a sculpture (which represents the State of New Mexico) in the US Capitol Hall.

Three Sisters represents classic Fragua at his best.

Fragua’s *Three Sisters* is featured in our Chicagoland gallery, and on our website, www.rivertadingpost.com.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Native American Festival and Basketmakers Market
July 6
Bar Harbor, Maine
- Hopi Festival of Arts & Culture
July 6-7
Flagstaff, Arizona
- World Eskimo-Indian Olympics
July 17-20
Fairbanks, Alaska
- Navajo Festival of Arts & Culture
August 3-4
Flagstaff, Arizona
- Gallup Inter-tribal Indian Ceremonial
August 2-11
Gallup, New Mexico
- SWAIA Indian Market
August 17–18
Santa Fe, New Mexico

HISTORIC MILWAUKEE INDIAN SUMMER CANCELLED IN 2019

For 32 years, the lakefront at Lake Michigan was home to one of the largest of all American Indian art and cultural events.

Each year, thousands of people visited the Henry Meier Festival Park to enjoy top American Indian Art, Pow-

wows, and the annual Indian Summer Music Awards.

The huge event was a Milwaukee tradition each weekend following Labor Day.

Finances, as might be expected, were the reason that the event was shut down. Production

simply cost more than revenues from the event.

As a non-profit organization, volunteers were critical to success, and the volunteer pool simply dried up.

Sadly, other major markets are facing the same dilemma.



MICHAEL KANTEENA REACHES BACK TO HIS ANCIENT ROOTS



Remembering the beautiful pottery shards he had picked up as a boy, and wishing to learn about his ancient roots, which he knew went back to Chaco Canyon, Michael Kanteena began to collect archeological catalogues of pottery forms.

The Laguna Pueblo artist studied the ancient work extensively, and even consulted with archeologists before developing his unique and highly recognizable form of pottery which is remarkably close to the pottery of his ancestors around 600 to 900 years ago.



A 600 year old Salado Pitcher...

His studies have expanded to include the Mimbres and ancient Mexican people where human and animal effigies are common, while adding a touch of his own contemporary design to his work. Of course, Michael signs each of his creations so there is no confusion about its origins.

Kanteena received his Bachelors degree in fine art from Eastern New Mexico University, and has been featured in many publications, including *Southwest Art*. He has been recognized through many awards, including First, Second and Third Place at the 1995 Gallup Ceremonial.

We love getting a fresh batch of Michael's pottery. When the box is opened, the wonderful smoky aroma wafts from within and it reminds us of history of this artform, from functional to artistic.

Today, his work can be found in many museums and galleries throughout the Southwest, including River Trading Post. You can find Michael Kanteena's work in our Dundee and Scottsdale galleries as well as on our website, www.rivertradingpost.com.



...as remembered by Michael Kanteena today.

ATADA TAKES STAND AGAINST THE ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

Recently the Association on American Indian Affairs has called for museums not to exhibit and auction houses to cease sales of a wide range of Native American objects in commercial circulation, unless the exhibition or sale is approved by tribes.

The Antique Tribal Dealers Association (ATADA), the largest U.S. organization of dealers in antique and contemporary Native American art is pushing back hard in the belief that such restrictions would harm the legitimate art trade, Native artisans, and the American public.

In a recent statement, ATADA has said that recognition of legitimate trade can be a platform for public education and can spur legislation that will help tribes.

ATADA has worked closely with tribes over the years, to submit various legislation to congress.

The ATADA statement goes on to say that U.S. museums, dealers, and private collectors have both goodwill and a desire for cooperative future work with the tribes.

The statement reflects ATADA's commitment to working together with Indian tribes to preserve objects of religious importance in tribal lands, and cites its ATADA Voluntary Returns Program which has resulted in the return of over 150 ceremonial objects during the past two years.

Currently ATADA is working with tribes to bring legislation forward that will bring

objects and ancestral remains, currently under federal government control, back to the tribes.

River Trading Post has been a full ATADA member for nearly 20 years, and fully supports the ATADA position on this delicate issue.

Over the years we have worked with hundreds of tribal members, have treated them with the utmost respect, and have contributed in our own way to the success of each artist and their family.

To put the clamps on these relationships, and the ability to sell an artist's work would not be beneficial to anyone, especially the artists.

THE SWASTIKA (WHIRLING LOG) AND THE NAVAJO

The ancient form we call the swastika was used as a symbol of happiness, pleasure, healing and good luck by many cultures. Dating back to 4000 BC or so, examples can be found of the symbol in cultures such as the Mayan, Tibetan, Indian, Asian, Hindu, and others.

Early findings of the symbol in America came from excavations in such places as Fains Island and Toco Mounds in Tennessee, and Hopewell Mound in Ohio.

Navajo tradition has it that an

outcast decided to crawl into a hollow log and float down the river to a place where he might find peace.

His trip was interrupted by four sacred deities who seal him into the log and cast him into the river. After four days he falls into a whirlpool where he spins round and round (hence the whirling log). Ultimately he is rescued and is given the miracle of grains for planting.

This story is used as part of the Kle'dze Hatal' or the Night

Chant ceremony.

For years, the whirling log was incorporated into Navajo weavings and jewelry. Other tribal groups also used the symbol in their work.

In 1940, the Navajo, Papago, Apache and Hopi signed a proclamation renouncing the further use of the symbol in any work, as the symbol had been desecrated by another nation of peoples.

Today these weavings are highly collectable.



FROM THE MAIL BAG

Our story about Gary David's Hopi migration theory (April:June 2019) drew quite a response, and some ire.

One reader wrote:

WTF??? You guys are now quoting a crackpot theorist on Hopi Migration in your newsletter? Really? The evidence being the lost continent of MU? I think you guys have officially migrated to the Orion Zone.

And another:

Of course I'm not going to question the oral traditions, which every culture has in one way or another. But I do think the Gary David speculation is questionable.

I'm not sure what he means by saying that he can make certain definitive statements by using a few genetic indicators. He doesn't say what these indicators are, or how they support his idea about Hopi ancestors coming from a lost continent in the Western Pacific.



We're sorry if we left the wrong impression. We reported this as a *theory*, not as fact. David is controversial, we know that. In fact the last sentence of our story said, "Maybe David is right, **maybe not.**" Great to have these thoughtful (and sometimes humorous) responses to our story. We're glad we got people thinking. Thank You! Keep 'em coming!

BRINGING YOU THE FINEST AMERICAN INDIAN ART FOR 20 YEARS. RIVER TRADING POST



Scottsdale

Going on 20 years now, River Trading Post has become renowned for its diverse collection of American Indian art, and as the friendliest place around for exploring and buying American Indian art.

Browse our galleries, visit our website, and we believe you will find a treasure with your name on it.

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Arts of Native America



MARK FISCHER'S TURTLE CLAN TORCH MAGIC



Teacher Turtle
by
Mark Fischer

Take a sheet of copper, a bit of silver rod and a welders torch, and that is Mark Fischer's recipe for the creation of award winning art.

Mark's affinity with the torch came naturally. His grandfather was a blacksmith, and his dad was a pipe fitter. Mark literally grew up with the torch.

Today, Mark Fischer (Oneida, Turtle Clan) is renowned, not only for his copper sculpture, but for the important teaching stories that go along with each of his pieces.

Mark Fischer is an educator, having spent many years with students at Oneida schools in Wisconsin. He is steeped in Oneida tradition and culture, and is an excellent storyteller in his own right. His *Teacher Turtle* just one example of Mark's strong belief in education and honors the wise elder teaching the little ones about life and lifeways.

Mark has been a featured artist, and a great friend of River Trading Post since 2005. Over the years, we have seen Mark's work evolve from simply spectacular to awesome. Few people understand torch magic better than Mark Fischer.

