

# BOWERS MUSEUM



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *First Americans Returns to the Bowers After a Whirlwind World Tour*

**Santa Ana, Calif. (Mar. 20, 2018)** – The Bowers Museum proudly presents its newest exhibition, *First Americans: Tribal Art from North America*, on view April 7, 2018 - August 19, 2018. This exhibition features over 100 highlights from the Bowers' Native American collection, specifically presented to explore the diversity of North America's native peoples.

This fourth stop on *First Americans'* international tour marks its homecoming to the Bowers after a critically acclaimed opening at the Museo del Oro in Bogota, Colombia in 2012 and three museums across China from 2014-2015. This groundbreaking Chinese tour was the first ever major exhibition of Native American art on view in China.

*First Americans* includes artwork representative of native people from the Artic North, Northwest Coast, California, Southwest and the Great Plains. The diverse artistic traditions found in these regions share common ground in their roots- a profound connection with nature and the environment and the exploration of a person's role within the spiritual world. These themes are explored throughout the exhibition. Highlights include what may be the earliest example of a transitional Navajo First Phase Chief's blanket, an early Hopi katsina doll, and a rare Seri feathered kilt from Baja, California. Each work of art selected for this exhibition reflects the beauty, diversity, and power achieved by artists of the past and of those that carry their traditions into the present day.

Several programs will be held in conjunction with this exhibition, including lectures and culinary experiences, and textile investigations. See reverse for a full list of exhibition related programs.

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## Exhibition Related Events

Exhibition Opening Conversation with Dr. Stephen Aron and Bill Mercer

Saturday, April 7 | 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Tickets: Member or with paid museum admission \$9 | General \$12

Dr. Aron is the premier scholar on the American West and First Nation peoples and the chair of the Institute for the Study of the American West at the Autry National Center Museum. Mr. Mercer is the curator and author of the catalog for *First Americans: Tribal Art from North America*. Each will be providing insights on this special collection and ways to bridge the gap between academic and public history regarding the native art and culture of North America.

The Swastika Symbol in Navajo Textiles with Dennis J. Aigner

Saturday, April 28 | 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Tickets: Member or with paid museum admission \$9 | General \$12

Dennis J. Aigner, author of *The Swastika Symbol in Navajo Textiles*, will consider the cultural history of the swastika in Navajo weaving, with references to other cultures and their weaving traditions.

Navajo Textiles with Philip Garaway

Saturday, May 19 | 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Tickets: Member or with paid museum admission \$9 | General \$12

Philip Garaway is a specialist in Native American textiles and cultural objects and owner and founder of, Native American Art Gallery in Venice, California. Having grown up on a Navajo reservation, the son of school teachers, he shares their legacy by speaking on Native American Culture. Learn about the history of trade in the American west with examples of Navajo textiles.

Cooking the Native Way: Chia Café' Collective

Friday, June 15 | 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Tickets: Member \$85 | General \$95

Tangata Restaurant will present a 3-course meal inspired by recipes from *Cooking the Native Way: Chia Café Collective*. Cookbook authors will talk about food and local native food history.

"First People" with Alfred Cruz, Jr. and Patricia Martz

Sunday, June 24 | 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Tickets: Member or with paid museum admission \$9 | General \$12

Join Alfred Cruz, Jr. a Juaneno/Acjachemen descendant and Patricia Martz, professor emerita, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Los Angeles, and founder and president of the California Cultural Resources Preservation Alliance.

Three-part tour series with Bill Mercer

June 23, July 21 & August 18 | 1 – 2 pm

Intimate (20 person) 3-part tour series with Bill Mercer, Curator of First Americans, focusing on the Northwest Coast and Arctic, California, and the Southwest.

3-Part Series Package: Member \$35 | General \$45