

THE ART OF THE INDIAN BASKET IN NORTH AMERICA · THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MUSEUM OF ART



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Lawrence, Kansas

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Introduction and Catalogue by Carol Fallon

August 24 - October 5, 1975

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PREFACE

Students and visitors at the University of Kansas enjoy a wealth of special collections of treasured items. Rare books, natural history specimens, classical antiquities, ethnographic materials as well as this Museum's paintings, sculptures, and graphic and decorative arts are all readily available here for study and delectation.

Traditionally the Museum of Anthropology has maintained custody of the university's ethnographic collections. Because of the fine work by our colleagues in the Anthropology Museum, the Museum of Art has not previously stressed the collection or exhibition of what was once a mislabeled "primitive art." Lately, however, there has grown a general recognition of the superlative artistry inherent in many of these works. Last year the Museum of Art presented a special showing of the pre-Columbian arts of Costa Rica, examining the unique design abilities of a culture indigenous to the western hemisphere. It is in a similar spirit that we now present this initial exhibition devoted to the art of the North American Indian, focusing on one of their most characteristic art forms.

The exhibition and catalogue have been prepared by Carol Fallon. Her long interest in and study of the art of the native American, coupled with her expertise as a weaver, give her a special insight and appreciation for the artistry of the Indian basketmaker. I am grateful to her for her careful dedication to this project. I also wish to express thanks to the lenders to this exhibition, listed elsewhere, whose generous cooperation and assistance in the project has helped make this exhibition and catalogue a reality.

Charles C. Eldredge
Director