Shirley M. Brauker (Chippewa)

Covered Jar

Ceramic

From the collection of the Dennos Museum Center
Gift of Dr. William Cross and Jo Weth
1991.013.005
Dear Educator,

The Dennos Museum Center is proud to present *Native American Art from the Museum Collection*. A PDF version of this packet with color images can be found online at [www.dennosmuseum.org](http://www.dennosmuseum.org). Your tour experience will be designed to fit your specific needs. Tour of this exhibition can be done with tours of the other current exhibitions or as a tour experience of its own with a relating art project and Native American Games. Check with the Curator of Education or your docent for more information.

This exhibition was organized for the Picturing American Museum Partnership Program. Find more information about the program and apply for funds for a museum visit at [http://www.michiganhumanities.org/programs/picturingamerica/index.php](http://www.michiganhumanities.org/programs/picturingamerica/index.php).

Dennos Museum Center K-12 educational programming aligns with Michigan Content Standards for Arts Education and the National Standards for Arts Education. We especially strive to provide experiences that will fit into a curriculum for the new Michigan Merit Curriculum for the Visual Performing and Applied Arts. To this end, experiences at the Dennos Museum Center highlight aspects of the creative process. In order to make sure that your tour addresses what you are doing in the classroom, please inform the docent (volunteer tour guide) when contacted of any special interests or needs. For details on content standards addressed by educational programming, please go to [www.dennosmuseum.org/education/schools/resources/](http://www.dennosmuseum.org/education/schools/resources/).

Please discuss your field trip goals with your docent prior to arriving at the museum. We are exciting to work with you to create a successful and fun visit to the Dennos Museum Center.

Thank you for visiting the Museum and we look forward to seeing you soon!

*The Dennos Museum Center Educational Department*
INTRODUCTION TO THE EXHIBITION

Native American Art from the Museum Collection

For thousands of years, Native Americans have used plants, bone, skin, earth, and stone to fashion the objects needed for everyday life: pots for cooking, baskets for storing, or arrowheads for hunting. This exhibition showcases the variety of the Dennos Museum Center’s collection of Native American artwork while addressing themes in the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Picturing America Program. Featured objects include Ottawa and Chippewa baskets and quillwork from Michigan, Alaskan Inuit dolls, sculpture and clothing, Hopi Kastina dolls and Navajo baskets.

About Picturing America

Picturing America, an initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities, brings masterpieces of American art into classrooms and libraries nationwide. Through this program, students and citizens will gain a deeper appreciation of our country’s history and character through the study and understanding of its art. Through the Michigan Humanities Council, the Picturing America in Michigan program also offers scholarships to classes for museum visits related to the arts and American History. The Dennos Museum Center is proud to be a Picturing America Museum Partner and help students learn about United States History through our collection of fine art. For more information about the Museum Partnership program, visit www.michiganhumanities.org.
OBJECTS

**Artist Unknown**

*Canoe*  
nd  
Birch bark, porcupine quills  
1991.007.028  
During the fur trading days the Ottawa built huge freighting canoes for travel on the Great Lakes. At times they used canvas sails which were embellished with large painted designs of mythical creatures, and the canoe bore medallions of colorful porcupine quillwork on either side.

**Artist Unknown**

*Alaskan Doll*  
nd  
Various furs, wood, graphite, and leather  
2004.005.008  
This doll’s mittens are red. The Canadian and Alaskan Inuit often make mittens red in their artwork to signify that the woman has been working with hides and her mittens are stained by animal blood.

**Artist Unknown**

*Navajo Marriage Basket*  
1950  
Leather, splints  
2004.016.061  
Navajo Wedding Baskets are woven by both the Navajo and Paiute weavers of the Southwest. At a Navajo marriage, a new basket is required to serve traditional corn meal mush to the wedding couple, and then it is passed around for the guests. A Navajo wedding basket is viewed as a map through which the Navajo chart their lives. The central spot in the basket represents the sipapu, where the Navajo people emerged from the prior world through a reed. The inner coils of the basket are white to represent birth.