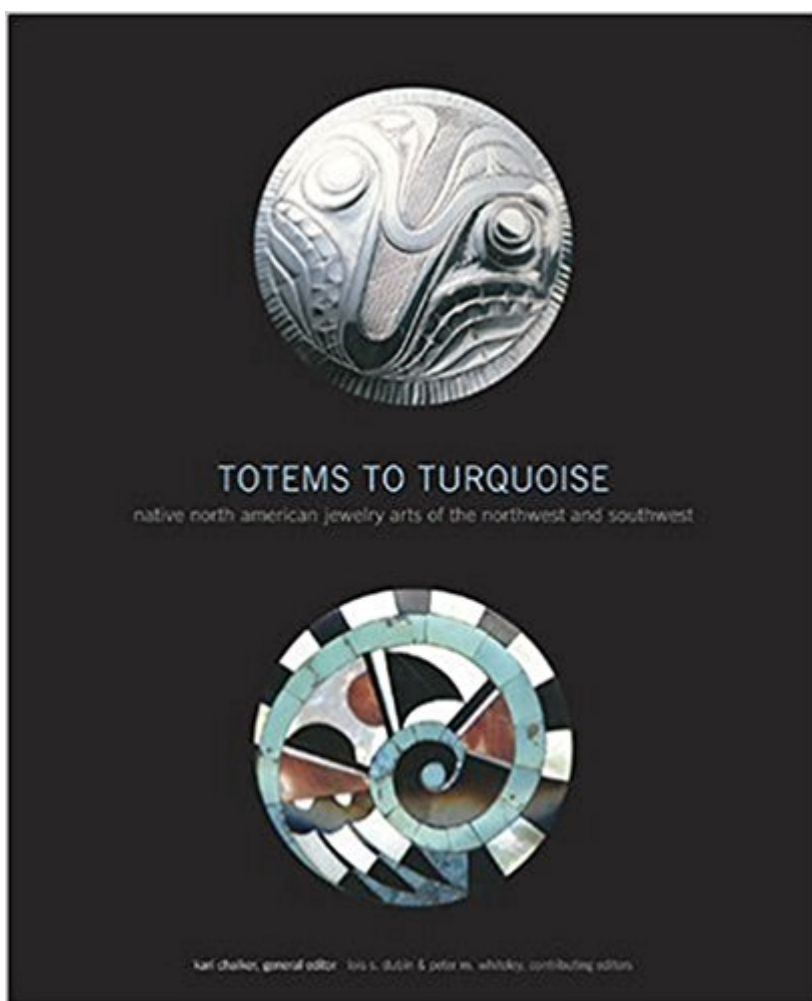


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Totems To Turquoise: Native North American Jewelry Arts Of The Northwest And Southwest



Synopsis

Published to coincide with a traveling exhibition, an exploration of the jewelry art of thirty-nine regional Native American artists considers the ways in which visual adornment reflects cross-cultural traditions, in a lavishly illustrated resource that is complemented by anthropological and historical information. 15,000 first printing.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

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Customer Reviews

Kari Chalker is an anthropological writer, researcher, and editor. She was formerly assistant director of cultural explorations at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, Colorado. Lois Sherr Dubin is a noted authority on beads and jewelry and the author of Abrams' History of Beads and North American Indian Jewelry and Adornment. Peter M. Whiteley is curator of North American ethnology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Dubin and Whiteley are the curators of "Totems to Turquoise."

I came across this book after reading about the life of Edward Curtis. After viewing his photographs, I wanted to explore the artwork of Native American artists. A cultural exchange program in 2000 brought together Native American artists from the Northwest Coast and the Southwest. The photographs are beyond beautiful. The stories each artist tells regarding their commitment to art, family, and life is inspiring. Anyone interested in Native American artists, their work or just inspiring stories will love this amazing book. Highly recommended.

A great book from the exhibition on contemporary native arts. Basic information on many artists.
Worth buying

I enjoyed this book and lent it to my friend to read

Going by the title, I was expecting this book to have more information on totems and totem carvers than it did. In short, there was very little information on this topic.

I lucked onto Totems to Turquoise at a local museum gift shop after exposure to the arts of the northwestern and southwestern Native American in 2008 and 2009. It is an excellent resource highlighting important contemporary artists as well as recognized masters who have had major impact on the market. What sets this great find apart from others is the ample discourse with the artists who reveal their connection to their work, their inspiration, and how their upbringing and cultural traditions impact the artist and the art. The depth of spiritual awareness that is accessed during creation is quite moving--and it is this "unquantifiable" factor that adds additional value to each work of art. The making of this book enabled some artists of the northwest and southwest to come together for the first time, thus developing new bonds and new creative influences.

Totems To Turquoise: Native North American Jewelry Arts Of The Northwest And Southwest is a lavish artbook filled cover-to-cover with full-color photographs not only of beautiful Native American jewelry, but also portraits of the individual artists crafters who create it. Brief descriptions of each piece and broader essays enlighten the reader as to how and why these visually stunning articles were created, and the symbolism underlying their design. Many pieces feature short commentaries by the creators themselves. A truly well-rounded treasury and a welcome addition to contemporary Native American art shelves.

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