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Taking A Closer Look At American Indian Beadwork

By Lisa Scott

Beadwork is the art or craft of attaching beads to one another or to cloth using a needle and thread.

Most beadwork takes the form of jewelry or other personal adornment, but beads are also used in wall hangings and sculpture.

Historic pieces of American Indian beadwork are featured in museums across the country, and include fabulous displays of early beadwork using seeds, beans, nuts, shells, bones, teeth, rocks, quills, claws, pearls, turquoise, coral, silver, gold, and other things found in nature.

American Indian beadwork is a popular collector's item. Intricately beaded pieces of clothing, moccasins, and ceremonial head dresses are striking, and make a nice addition to any collection.

According to

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org>

, it wasn't until the early 1800s that American Indian

beadwork featured the use of trade beads in the colors of light blue and white taking the place of the more primitive pieces used before. The new beads allowed Indian artists to be more creative in their designs and patterns.

The bead work of the Plains Indian tribe is the most prevalent American Indian beadwork, with the use of intricate peyote stitch beading. There are a number of Native American beadwork traditions seen across the country, and each is unique in the beading design, style, color, and stitch used. In pieces of early beadwork, designs and colors used were greatly influenced by the tribal community, and by what color of beads were available at the time.

By the end of the 1800s a variety of colors were available allowing designs to become more intricate in both design and color. For more interesting facts about American Indian beadwork visit

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<http://www.native-languages.org/beadwork.htm>

. This site also displays of sample works by Native

American artists and links to their personal websites where their work can be viewed in more depth.

Today, American Indian beadwork artists use a variety of tiny glass beads in a variety of colors, and sometimes combine them with natural crystals and semi-precious gemstones. Earrings, necklaces, chokers, bracelets, purses, and beaded clothing items, such as moccasins are very popular and are offered for sale at Southwestern style trade shows and Native American cultural events year round in various parts of the country.

There are still artists that create traditional pieces of beadwork using quills and other natural items. Some of these artists work only on commission and when the piece is completed, it is a piece that cannot be duplicated, a truly unique work of art. American Indian beadwork is beautiful and original and can be displayed proudly in the space of your choosing.

Your purchase is a contribution to the Native American culture, and reflects your support of this historic traditional art form. Many online retailers only feature works by authenticated Native American artists, and pieces are usually signed by their creator with verification of authenticity.

Learn more about American Indian beadwork.

<http://americanindianbeadwork.info/index.html>

Advantages And Disadvantages Of Purchasing American Indian Art Online

By Edward Charkow

Today's society is one in which individuals look for the easiest ways to do things. This is most often seen with online shopping. A large number of individuals do not have time to spend the day shopping at their local mall; therefore, they shop online instead. Online shopping is a great way to obtain certain items, but what about American Indian art?

The presence of American Indian art is felt widely in the United States, but it is also popular in other areas of the world. This is why American Indian art is sold all around the world. There a large number of stores that sells American Indian art on and offline. If given the opportunity, many individuals would prefer to shop for American Indian art at a storefront location, but not all are able to do so.

Online American Indian art stores and gift shops have made it possible for individuals to purchase art online. Many online shoppers shop online to save time, but a large number do so because they do not have local access to an American Indian art store or gift shop. While shopping online for American Indian art can have advantages, it has disadvantages as well.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of shopping online for American Indian art is the selection. Most storefront

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American Indian art stores and gift shops are limited on the amount of space that they have. This means that when an individual shops at an American Indian art store or gift shop there are only viewing a small percentage of the artwork available. Online stores do not always have this problem; therefore, they are able to have more art for sale.

Another benefit of shopping for American Indian art online is the money that can be saved. With online shopping, it is easy for an internet user to quickly compare prices. This has led many online stores to offer American Indian art at a lower price. The low price helps an online store stay in competition with other retailers. Individuals shopping for American Indian art online can take advantage of this by purchasing beautiful American Indian art for a discounted price.

While there are advantages of shopping online for American Indian art, there are disadvantages as well. One of the biggest disadvantages is the possibility of damaged items. When an item is ordered from an online store, the item can be damaged during shipping. It is advised that all online shoppers insure their products for shipping. It may also be a good idea to ask an online retailer about their shipping policies and packaging standards. Most online retailers will properly package your order, but why take the chance with an expensive piece of American Indian art?

Another problem commonly found with online shopping is the authenticity of an item. The internet is amazing, but it has allowed a large number of individuals to open their own online stores. Just because someone claims an item is authentic American Indian art, does not really mean that it is. Purchasing American Indian art from an online auction website is how many individuals get scammed into purchasing American Indian art that is fake.

It is important to note that just about everything you do or purchase will have advantages and disadvantages. It is advised that you do not let disadvantages persuade you from purchasing American Indian art online. Taking the time to verify an online retailer's reputation is a surefire way to make online shopping disadvantage-free.

Edward Charkow is the administrator for American Indian History. For more information please visit:

<http://www.americanindian-history.com>



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