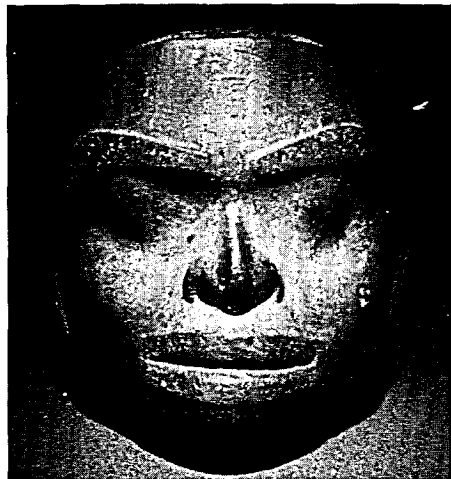


□ ARTS AND CULTURE □

THE SPIRIT SINGS — Artistic Traditions of Canada's First Peoples



Mask — Coast Tsimshian, late pre-historic.
Canadian Museum of Civilization.

The Spirit Sings, an exhibition of some of the finest examples of native art and artifacts, is now on display at the Lorne Building in Ottawa.

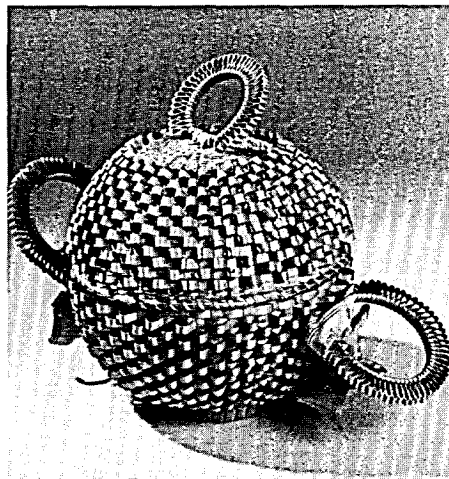
The exhibit features hundreds of objects made by Canadian Indian and Inuit people and collected by European explorers, missionaries and early visitors to North America. Many of these objects have been brought back to Canada for exhibition for the first time.

Amulets and necklaces, ritual bowls and masks, weapons, exquisitely decorated clothing and cookware, canoes and saddles, dolls and a host of other pieces of art, make up the rich collection of more than 650 objects assembled to illustrate the life and values of indigenous peoples at the time of early contact with Europeans.

The Spirit Sings exhibition contains the best native art from museum collections and, for the first time in generations, many priceless objects from foreign museums and private collections.

One example is this beautiful early seventeenth century basket woven from several kinds of plant fibers. Created by an unknown Indian woman from the Great Lakes region of Canada, it is the work of a meticulous crafts-person. Decorated with porcupine quills, some left in their natural white and others dyed black and orange, it is the only fine basket of its type that has survived.

The exhibition celebrates the beauty, strength and resilience of native artistic traditions and is divided into six cultural regions: East Coast, Northern Woodlands, Northern Plains, Western



Sewing basket — Micmac or Maliseet type, late 19th Century.

New Brunswick Museum, Saint John.

Subarctic, the Arctic and the Northwest Coast. Gallery space for each of the regions is designed to enhance the cultural and geographic differences of the areas. Lighting and sound has been added to surround the viewer with an atmosphere that evokes the spirit that sings from the past through the many objects.

The Spirit Sings: Artistic Traditions of Canada's First Peoples was produced by the Glenbow Museum in Calgary as a flagship presentation of the Olympic Winter Games Arts Festival. During the four months it was on display in Calgary, The Spirit Sings attracted more than 120,000 people and earned international acclaim.

The popular show is now in the National Capital for the only other public presentation before the artifacts are returned to their home museums and collections around the world.

As a major contributor to the production of Spirit Sings, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, is host to the exhibit in Ottawa until November 6, 1988 □

- Canada's Ben Johnson the world's fastest human being, will be at the Canadian Track and Field Championships, August 5, 6 and 7, the qualifying meet for the 1988 Summer Olympics.

- July 1-4, join hundreds of thousands of visitors in celebration of Canada's 121st birthday.

- The Canada Dance Festival leaps and swirls with excitement June 21 — July 3.

- Le Festival international de la bicyclette takes to the streets of downtown Hull, July 29 — August 7.

- SuperEx, the Central Canada Exhibition, celebrates its 100th Anniversary August 18-28.

- If you'd rather be sailing, Festivoile, the sailing festival on the Ottawa River at Aylmer, Quebec, is for you, August 11-21.

For additional information write:

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