



RALPH T. COE FOUNDATION

Ralph T. Coe Foundation for the Arts, Inc.
Aspen Plaza
1590 B Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
www.ralphtcoefoundation.org
Tel. (505) 983-6372

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What: “Connoisseurship and Good Pie: Ted Coe and Collecting Native Art”

Where: The Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, Santa Fe, NM

When: July 25, 2015 through April 17, 2016 (open 10 am to 5 pm seven days a week)

The Ralph T. Coe Foundation for the Arts, Santa Fe, is pleased to announce a major exhibition of Native American Art, *Connoisseurship and Good Pie: Ted Coe and Collecting Native Art*. Ralph T. “Ted” Coe was a curator, museum director, connoisseur, and collector known to travel hours out of his way to discover a new Native artist or a good slice of pie. The exhibition is a collaboration with the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, Santa Fe.

The exhibition explores the study of Native American art through Coe’s career and collections. Coe was a pioneer in the field of Native Art studies, curating landmark exhibitions, writing seminal books, and promoting Native art connoisseurship. Trained as an art historian specializing in European art, Coe ultimately found his life’s passion in collecting Native American Art and worked tirelessly to expand the public’s understanding and appreciation of traditional and contemporary forms, even as many connoisseurs, collectors, and even artists thought them to be lost. Largely self-taught through years of study and interactions with Native artists and community members, he elevated people’s appreciation and understanding of Native art and, importantly, the cultures and artists that created these works.

The exhibitions he organized, such as the groundbreaking international *Sacred Circles, Two Thousand Years of North American Indian Art*, as well as *Lost and Found Traditions: Native American Art 1965-1985* both emphasized and empathetically presented artistry and people. These exhibitions proved to museum audiences that the art of Native Americans could meet the highest standards of any culture.

The Foundation is the beneficiary of Coe’s life and work. He created the Foundation to continue his life’s work and care for his collection of over 2000 art works, which serve as catalysts in building broader appreciation and understanding of Indigenous art traditions.

Over 200 works are presented from the Coe Foundation collection in the exhibition, ranging from a nineteenth-century Haida Chilkat robe, a birchbark scale model of a cottage by Irene Desmoulin, a pair of nineteenth-century Cree snowshoes, a rare mid-eighteenth century Cree or Ojibwe moosehide coat, and examples of beadwork by virtuoso artist Joyce Growing Thunder Fogarty, including a stunning fully beaded horse mask. Presented in salon style, there is something for everyone in the exhibition, from every corner of North America. Along the way, Coe befriended Native artists: “*during the years I assembled my collections I camped, attended feasts, ceremonies, and often just shared endless cups of coffee with Native people across most the US and large stretches of Canada.*” Of the works in his collection, Ted Coe wrote, “*They are not trophies but instruments of passion with the power to unexpectedly reveal mysteries.*”

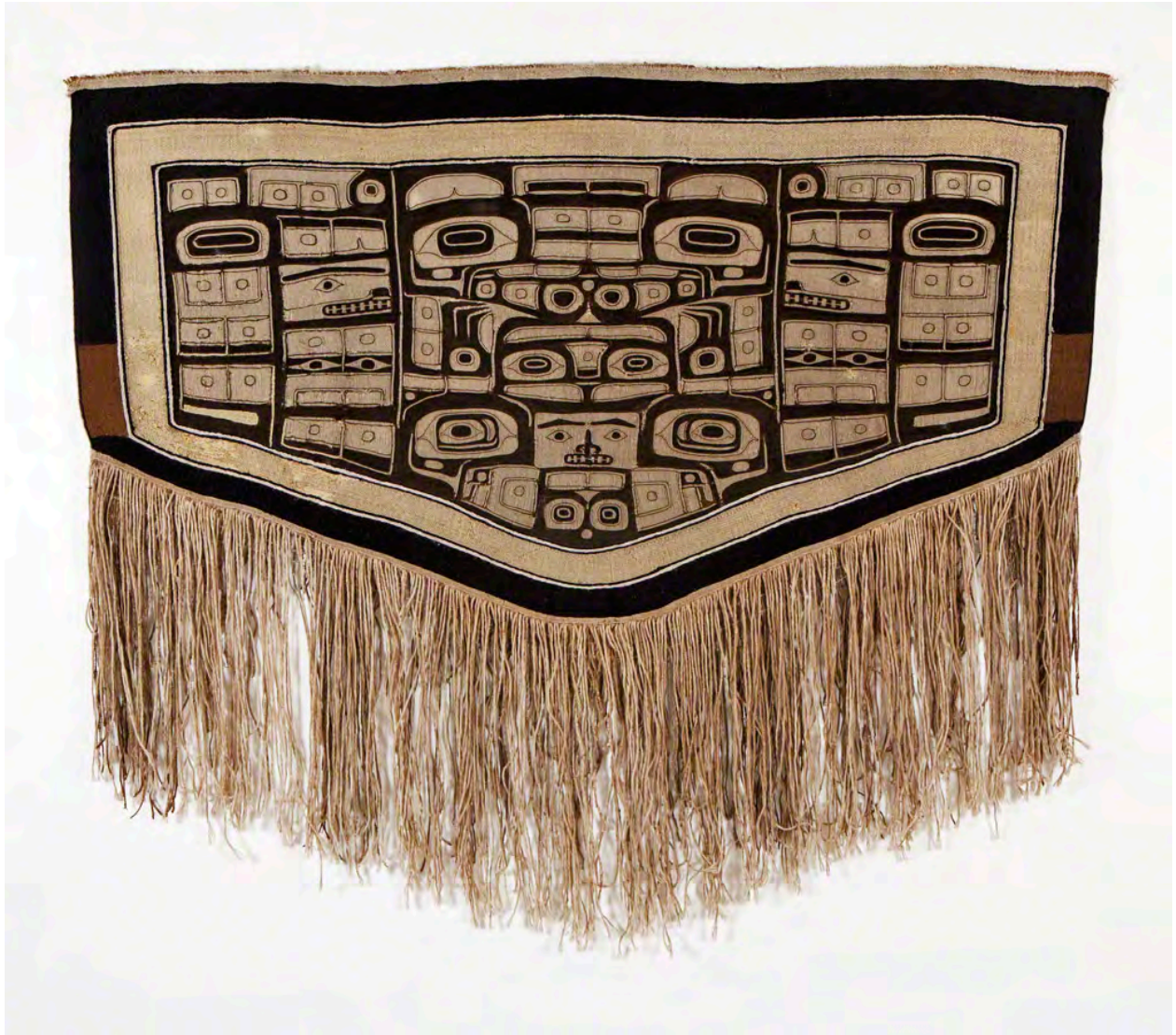
A full color catalogue is available through the Case Trading Post at the Wheelwright Museum (www.wheelwright.org/shop) and through the Ralph T. Coe Foundation for the Arts (www.ralphtcoefoundation.org). The catalogue and exhibition are authored by Bruce Bernstein, executive director and curator of the Coe Foundation, with assistance from the Coe Foundation advisory board, and Jonathan Batkin and Cheri Falkenstien-Doyle of the Wheelwright Museum. For additional information about the Foundation and exhibition contact, Coe Foundation president, Rachel Wixom (www.ralphtcoefoundation.org or 505-983-6372).



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IMAGES:



Chilkat Robe, c. 1850. Tlingit or Haida, Alaska or British Columbia. 48 x 61 in. Mountain goat and commercial sheep's wool, cedar bark, and dyes. Acquired from Jackson Street Gallery, Seattle, WA, 2007. Photo by Addison Doty. © Ralph T. Coe Foundation NA1313



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Cottage, 2000. Irene Desmoulin (1920-2013), Odawa, Manitoulin Island, Ontario. 7.25 x 7 in.
Birchbark, quills, sweetgrass, and dye. Acquired from Ten Mile Point Trading Post and Gallery,
Sheguiandah, Manitoulin Island, ON, 2000. NAO216



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Snowshoes, c. 1850. Northern Cree, Penobscot or Naskapi (attrib.), Ontario. Right 26 x 25 in.; left 25 x 25.75 in. Wood, babiche. Acquired from James Economos, Santa Fe, NM, 1997. Photo by Ron Spencer. © Ralph T. Coe Foundation NAO401



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Coat, c. 1740. Cree or Ojibwe (attrib.), Ontario or Quebec. 42.5 x 21.5 in. Moose hide, quills, wool, rocker stamping on the hem, and natural dyes. Acquired from Taylor A. Dale Tribal Arts and Trotta-Bono Ltd, 2006. Photo by Addison Doty. © Ralph T. Coe Foundation NA1172



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Horse Mask, 2000. Joyce Growing Thunder Fogarty (b. 1950), Assiniboine-Sioux, Fort Peck Reservation, Montana. 20 x 23.5 in. Beads, muslin backing, turkey feathers, metal discs and beads, plastic rings, felt, red stroud, and embroidery thread. Acquired from the artist in Santa Fe, NM, 2000. Photo by Ron Spencer. © Ralph T. Coe Foundation NAO435