

# The Virtual Coe *Being together while being apart...*

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October 16, 2020

## *Free and interactive...*



The next **COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT** event, a partnership with **First American Art Magazine**, is on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 3 pm MDT and will feature artist Kelly Church.

To register, click [here](#).

**Kelly Church** is a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians in Michigan. She comes from an unbroken line of Black ash basket makers, and from the largest black ash weaving family in

the Great Lakes. She is an artist and activist and shares her knowledge of working with black ash trees as well as educating the public on the effects of the Emerald ash borer on cultural traditions.

**Collections Spotlight**, a program developed in partnership with **First American Art Magazine**, is a free interactive, online discussion that brings together the public, scholars, and Native artists who select artworks from the Coe's collection to interpret and discuss.

To watch past Collection Spotlight events, go [here](#).

Photograph by Richard Church.

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## *A cup of tea anyone?*

Birchbark is an important, and potent, material used widely across the Great Lakes region and beyond.

**Birchbark** is incredibly versatile and continues to be used to craft canoes; containers for harvesting, storing and cooking food; as a paper-like surface for text and images; and even as a medicinal tea. It is

also used in making less functional objects, perhaps, such as this incredible and playful tea set created by Josephine Assinewai (Odawa).

To learn more about this piece, click [here](#)



Josephine Assinewai (Assiniwie) (Odawa), *Birchbark Tea Set*, 1992.  
Birchbark, porcupine quills, sweetgrass, dye, thread, dims variable. NA0273

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## *More than a game or sport...*



Lacrosse is the true American game, invented and played in North America long before the arrival of Europeans.

Ho-Chunk lacrosse plays significant roles in religious life and in maintaining community identity and traditions. It is more than a game or sport; rather, it has great spiritual origins and meanings to the Ho-Chunk, its core values helping sustain community identity and keeping traditions alive. Ho-Chunk call lacrosse the “Creator’s Game” because of its profound spiritual origins and meanings.

To learn more about this piece and Indigenous lacrosse players, click [here](#).



Artist Unknown (Ho-Chunk, attrib.), *Lacrosse Stick*, c. 1850.  
Probably hickory wood, wire, and rawhide webbing, 28.34 x 4 in. NA0244

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