




Non-Western Art History

The Art of Native America Part Two

End

1 Native America 2





End

2 Native America 2



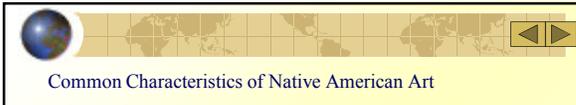


The Art of Native America

- ✦ South America
 - Nazca Peoples
 - Moche Peoples
 - Incan Empire
- ✦ Central America
 - Olmec Empire
 - Mayan Empire
 - Aztec Empire
- ✦ North America
 - Mississippian Culture
 - Southwest Indians
 - Northwest Indians

End

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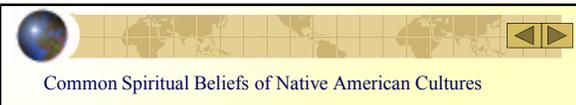



Common Characteristics of Native American Art

- ✦ Artistic traditions developed largely independent of other cultures.
- ✦ Some cultures had large cities with monumental architecture.
- ✦ Artists developed regionally and the materials they used were highly dependent on their local environment
- ✦ Artists were respected individuals, caretakers of sacred artworks
- ✦ Used gold, silver and copper for art; no iron or bronze
- ✦ Artworks reflected complex relationships between people and gods.
- ✦ No distinction between fine and applied arts.

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Common Spiritual Beliefs of Native American Cultures

- ✦ Two worlds, terrestrial and celestial, shamans traveled between the two.
- ✦ Shamans used art and architecture to travel to the other world to receive messages from the ancestors and gods.
- ✦ Entered trance state that gave them visionary powers
- ✦ Trance enhanced by drums, rattles and masks sometimes representing the shaman's animal counterpart.
- ✦ Shaman returned with special knowledge and messages
- ✦ Shamans used their powers to heal the sick, assist hunters and warriors, control weather and advise rulers.

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CENTRAL AMERICA

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Top: *Monumental Head*, H: 9 feet
Seventy Wonders of World
 Left: *Mask*, H: 6.75 inches
 10th – 6th century BC, Olmec,
 Mexico, Jadeite,
 Metropolitan Museum of Art



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Bird Pendant, 1st – 5th century, Costa Rica, H: 2.5 inches, Jadeite,
 Metropolitan Museum of Art



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Pair of Ancestor Figures, 1st century BC – 2nd century AD, Nayarit, Mexico,
 H: 16 inches, ceramic, Metropolitan Museum of Art



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Pyramids of the Sun and Moon (right: Moon), 200– BC – 600 AD,
 Teotihuacan, Mexico, Street of the Dead, Metropolitan Museum of Art



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Pyramid of the Sun, 200 BC – 600 AD, Teotihuacan, Mexico,
 Street of the Dead, Wikimedia



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The Great Goddess Tēpanitla (detail), 1– 650 AD,
 Teotihuacan, Mexico, Scan: *Art Beyond The West*

Mayan Empire 250 – 900 AD (classic)



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Temple of the Giant Jaguar,
Unknown Mayan Artists,
8th century, Tikal, Mexico
Scan:



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Standing Ruler,
Maya, Mexico, 600 - 800,
H: 9.5 inches, ceramic with
traces of paint
Kimbell Art Museum



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Double-chambered Vessel,
5th century, Mayan, Mexico,
H: 12 inches, ceramic
Metropolitan Museum of Art



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Tripod Bird Bowl,
Unknown Mayan Artist,
200 - 300, Mexico, H: 9.75 inches
Ceramic
Metropolitan Museum of Art



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Drinking Vessel,
Mayan, Mexico,
593-830,
Ceramic with slip paint,
H: 8 inches,
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



Cultural Context: Mayan Empire

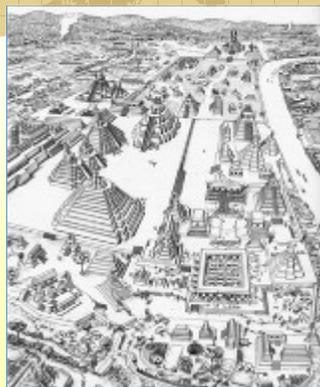
Many illustrations for this next section are by Jordi Ballonga and Josep Escofet from *San Rafael: A Central American City Through The Ages* by Xavier Hernandez and translated by Kathleen Leverich published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1992.



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Mayan City Plan
Illustration by:
Jordi Ballonga
and Josep Escofet

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Temple Complex,
Mayan City
Illustration by:
Jordi Ballonga
and Josep Escofet

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Outskirts of Mayan
Temple City
Illustration by:
Jordi Ballonga
and Josep Escofet

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Construction of Mayan Temple Pyramid
Illustration by: Jordi Ballonga and Josep Escofet

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Cutaway of Mayan Temple Pyramid, showing
placement of royal sarcophagus
Illustrations from: *Seventy Wonders of the World*,
Edited by Chris Scarre, 2000



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King Pakal, Dressed as the Maize God, at His Moment of Death Sarcophagus Lid, Temple of the Inscriptions, 675 - 702 AD
Illustration from: *Seventy Wonders of the World*, Edited by Chris Scarre, 2000

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Memorial Stela, Mayan, Mexico
Illustration by: Jordi Ballonga and Josep Escofet

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Mayan Marketplace,
Illustration by: Jordi Ballonga and Josep Escofet

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Smiling Girl Holding Basket,
600 - 750, Mayan, Mexico, H. 7.5 inches,
Kimbell Art Museum

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✦ Mayan artists lived in city-states where:

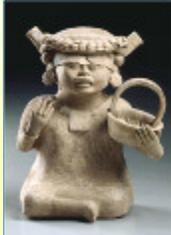
- the ruler controlled religion, trade, and politics and was assisted by nobles and priests.
- the religion centered on worship of many gods and ancestors.




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✦ Mayan artists lived in city-states where:

- warriors fought with other city-states over territory.
- people traded with villages and other near-by city-states.




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- Mayan artists lived in city-states where:
 - the ruler and nobles were patrons of the arts.
 - artists created paintings and sculptures for temples and tombs.



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Pendant: *Twin Warriors*, 700 – 1200 AD,
Conte, Panama, H: 3.25 inches, Gold, Kimbell Art Museum

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Rain God Vessel,
1100 – 1400 AD,
Mixtec, Mexico,
Polychrome ceramic,
H: 11 inches
Kimbell Art Museum

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Aztec Empire 1428 - 1521



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Model of Templo Mayor, 1320 - 1521, Aztec W: 80 meters at top,
Source: Wikimedia

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Tlaloc Vessel, c. 1470, Aztec, Mexico, H: 12 inches,
Ceramic, Museo de Templo Mayor, Mexico City

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Water Deity, 15th – 16th century, Aztec, Mexico, H: 11.5 inches, Stone, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Female Figure, 15th – early 16th century, Aztec, Mexico, H: 21.5 inches, Stone, Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Turquoise Mosaic of a Double-Headed Serpent, 15th – 16th century, Aztec, Mexico, W: 17 inches, Wood covered with turquoise, The British Museum

End

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Wedding of King Eight Deer to Lady Thirteen Serpent Flowers, Detail from the Codex Nuttall, c. 1500 AD, Mixtec, Mexico, The British Museum

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◆ This is the end of our presentation on Native American Art Part Two

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End