



Contemporary Plains Indian Dolls



1. **KIOWA WOMAN WITH PARASOL**, carved cedar, buckskin, beads, powdered paint and brass military buttons. Height: 21". Made in 1988 by Vanessa Paukeigope Morgan, Kiowa/Pima.
© 1992 Vanessa Paukeigope Morgan.



3. **KIOWA WOMAN**, buckskin, beads, powdered paint, cowrie shells and metal spots. Height: 12". Made in 1988 by Donna Jean Tsatoke, Kiowa/Caddo.
© 1992 Donna Jean Tsatoke.

2. COVER:
APACHE WOMAN, buckskin, metal jingles and beads. Height: 12". Made in 1956 by Mildred Imach Cleghorn, Fort Sill Apache.
© 1992 Mildred Imach Cleghorn.



4. **KIOWA WOMAN**, aspen, buckskin, "cut", bone and metal beads. Height: 15". Made in 1991 by Ernest R. Redbird.
© 1992 Ernest R. Redbird.



5. ASSINIBOINE MAN AND WOMAN, buckskin ornamented with beadwork, rabbit fur, and feathers. Height: 17". Made in 1977 by Juanita Tucker, Assiniboine.
© 1977 Juanita Tucker.



6. SIOUX MAN, buckskin, quillwork, paint, human hair and fabric. Height: 8". Made in 1988 by Tim Lammers, Oglala Sioux.
© 1989 Tim Lammers.



7. SIOUX MAN AND WOMAN, woolen broadcloth, dentalium shells, sequins, beads, brass conchos, feathers, bone and glass beads. Height: 16½". Made in 1987 by Cecelia Fire Thunder, Oglala Sioux.
© 1988 Cecelia Fire Thunder.



8. WARRIOR ON HORSE, leather, feathers, deer hair, glass beads on stuffed and painted fabric over wire armatures with fabric-covered, carved wood heads. Height: 14". Made in 1969 by John Bear Medicine, Blackfeet.
© 1992 John Bear Medicine.



9. DANCING COUPLE, fabric, buckskin, glass beads, feather on stuffed fabric over wire armature, carved balsa wood heads and hands. Height: 12". Made in 1969 by Nicholas Fast Horse.
© 1989 Nicholas Fast Horse.



10. GOURD CLAN DANCER, leather, fabric, mescal, metal and glass beads. Height: 20 7/8". Made in 1984 by Don Tenoso, Hunkpapa Lakota.
© 1984 Don Tenoso.



11. GHOST DANCERS, painted muslin, fabric and feathers. Height: 16". Made in 1984 by Rhonda Holy Bear, Miniconjou Sioux.
© 1984 Rhonda Holy Bear.



12. KIOWA BLACK LEGGINGS SOCIETY MAN AND WOMAN, fabric, leather, bone and glass beads. Height: 12". Made in 1974 by Donna Jean Tsatoke, Kiowa/Caddo.
© 1974 Donna Jean Tsatoke.



13. CADDO WOMEN, fabric, ribbon, glass beads and metal spots. Height: 11 1/2". Made in 1991 by Donna Jean Tsatoke, Kiowa/Caddo.
© 1992 Donna Jean Tsatoke.



15. APACHE WOMAN, fabric, abalone shell and glass beads. Height: 11 1/2". Made in 1956 by Mildred Imach Cleghorn, Fort Sill Apache.
© 1992 Mildred Imach Cleghorn.



14. WICHITA MAN AND WOMAN, fabric, buckskin, beads and yarn. Height: 10 1/4". Made in 1963 by Sara Frazier Grimes, Wichita.
© 1992 Sara Frazier Grimes.



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An Exhibition, January 26-March 20, 1992

This exhibition has been organized to highlight doll-makers representing ten tribes of the Great Plains region who have adapted their impressive talents to creating dolls as a fine and expressive art form. Drawing upon the permanent collections of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board's national museum program;—the Southern Plains Indian Museum is pleased to present dolls from its own collection as well as Northern Plains Indian dolls from the Board's Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning, Montana and Sioux Indian dolls from the collection of the Board's Sioux Indian Museum in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Since the turn of the century, Plains Indian craftsmen have developed an extensive artistry in doll and figurine making. While a few dolls are still made as toys for children, a number of innovative individuals specialize in creative, often highly personalized forms of doll making. Some Plains Indian craftsmen create dolls dressed in meticulously-crafted, historic-style garments, often thoroughly researched through study and observation of historic costume collections in museums (illus. 11). Other doll-adaptations are figurines dressed in modern clothing or costume, crafted in action portrayals of dancers (illus. 9). Some doll artists, such as Mildred Imach Cleghorn (illus. 2 and 15), Juanita Tucker (illus. 5), Cecelia Fire Thunder (illus. 7) and Sara Grimes (illus. 14);—take great pride in documenting, preserving and recording important aspects of their native culture.

Contemporary Plains Indian doll artists all lavish a broad spectrum of specialized craft skills on their creations including beadwork, quillwork, skinsewing, metalwork and painting as well as a keen knowledge of the tailoring of diverse types of historic and contemporary garments. Among those doll artists exhibiting great virtuosity are Don Tenoso (illus. 10), Ernest Redbird (illus. 4) and Tim Lammers (illus. 6).

These artists' wide ranging knowledge of Indian fashions, both historic and contemporary, is combined with an impressive range of technical skills which are lavished on their dolls. Don Tenoso's "Gourd Dancer" documents the contemporary costume innovated by the Kiowa of Oklahoma when they revived the Gourd Clan Society in the late 1950's. Tenoso's figure is dressed in a red and blue woolen broadcloth blanket, strands of mescal and metal beads, full-beaded moccasins and a sash tied around the waist. Ernest Redbird's "Kiowa Woman" displays a mastery of wood carving, beadwork and skinsewing while Tim Lammers' "Sioux Man" reveals the artist's extraordinary talents in quillworking and skinsewing.

Two other gifted male doll artists, John Bear Medicine (illus. 8) and Nicholas Fast Horse (illus. 9) both specialized in self-standing-figures fashioned over wire armatures affixed to a base. Commonly referred to as "activity" dolls, these figures provide the beholder with additional cultural information about diverse Native American activities such as preparation for battle, dancing or playing games. John Bear Medicine's dolls refer to stories told to him as a child by his grandmother, Middlecalf. His figure of a warrior on horseback reminds us of the days during the fur trade era when the Blackfeet were a powerful equestrian tribe. Nicholas Fast Horse began his career as a doll artist in his mid forties. His work, reflecting his interest in native dance and music, was primarily devoted to dancer and drummer dolls. Although crudely rugged in execution, Fast Horse's dolls are among the most expressive found in contemporary Native American art today.

Finely made dolls executed for aesthetic and expressive purposes have become increasingly important. Donna Jean Tsatoke learned doll-making from renowned doll-artist, Mildred Imach Cleghorn, while a student at Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Although Mrs. Cleghorn taught her the basic fundamentals, it was Donna Jean who inspired herself to learn beadwork, and to improve her doll-making skills. Interestingly, she creates dolls dressed in Kiowa ceremonial clothing (illus. 12) as well as the more rarely depicted Caddo woman wearing a traditional *Dushto* on the back of her head (illus. 13).

Vanessa Paukeigope Morgan has stated that her doll (illus. 1) has personal meaning for her; the yellow paint she used to color the doll's dress came from the Palo Duro Canyon in Texas, site of sad historic significance for the Kiowa people. On a more cheerful note, Vanessa points out that during her childhood she saw many elderly Kiowa ladies at dances with their parasols, ... "they looked so pretty..." Thus her doll evokes sentimental images of the past suggestive of scenes from brightly-colored ledger drawings produced at the turn of the century.

In presenting this Special Exhibition to the public, the Indian Arts and Crafts Board is pleased to identify the following individuals whose work is featured. These people are just a few of the many outstanding Native American craftsmen involved in the production of dolls today:

JOHN BEAR MEDICINE: Blackfeet, b. 1896, d. 1978; MILDRED IMACH CLEGHORN: Fort Sill Apache, b. 12/11/10, resides in Apache, Oklahoma; NICHOLAS FAST HORSE: Oglala Sioux, b. 4/16/24, d. 10/19/83; CECELIA FIRE THUNDER: Oglala Sioux, b. 1947, resides in Kyle, South Dakota; SARA FRAZIER GRIMES: Wichita, b. 4/15/97, d. 11/14/84; RHONDA HOLY BEAR: Minnicongjou Sioux, b. 12/15/59, resides in Chamisal, New Mexico; TIM LAMMERS: Oglala Sioux, b. 9/4/57, resides in Rapid City, South Dakota; VANESSA PAUKEIGOPE MORGAN: Kiowa/Pima, b. 10/5/52, resides in Fort Cobb, Oklahoma; ERNEST R. REDBIRD: Kiowa, b. 2/28/52, resides in Anadarko, Oklahoma; DONALD BLAINE TENOSO: Hunkpapa Lakota, b. 10/17/60, resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina; DONNA JEAN TSATOKE: Kiowa/Caddo, b. 7/5/30, resides in Anadarko, Oklahoma and JUANITA TUCKER: Assiniboine, b. 8/26/95, resides in Harlem, Montana.

Although the work in this exhibit is not for sale, handicrafts are an important source of income for Indian people. The following Indian owned and operated enterprises are sources of contemporary Plains Indian dolls. Inquiries should be directed to:

Oklahoma Indian Arts and Crafts Coop, P.O. Box 966, Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005, Tel. (405) 247-3486;

Northern Plains Indian Crafts Assoc., P.O. Box E, Browning, Montana 59417, Tel. (406) 338-5661;

Tipi Shop, Inc., Box 1542, Rapid City, South Dakota 57709, Tel. (605) 343-8128.

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