

# Museum of Indian Arts & Culture

## News

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SPIDER WOMAN'S (NA ASHJE'II 'ASDZÁÁ) GIFT: NAVAJO WEAVING TRADITIONS

Santa Fe, NM—A striking array of Diné (Navajo) textiles and baskets will soon be on display at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. *Spider Woman's (Na ashje'ii 'Asdzáá) Gift: Navajo Weaving Traditions*, a long-term exhibition, features weavings from the 1850s through the 1890s—the Classic and Transitional periods. A weaving demonstration, gallery talk, and hands-on activities are planned for the opening, which takes place Sunday, May 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

On the Diné reservation situated between the red rock canyon walls in Canyon de Chelly, Arizona, stands an 800-foot sandstone rock formation named Spider Rock. According to Diné oral history, this is where Spider Woman makes her home. For centuries, her gift of weaving has provided a constant means of sustenance for the Diné in the Southwest.

Spider Woman taught the Diné weaving designs that refer to natural “life-way” elements and cosmology. These designs, evident in early basketry, are imbued with special meaning and have been passed down throughout many generations of Diné weavers.

Culled from the museum's collections, *Spider Woman's Gift* features Diné baskets and textiles that share particular design elements and patterns, including Spider Woman

crosses, other stylized cross designs, empty-centered squares, and stepped terraces. Traditional Classic textiles on view include women's dresses and blankets, child's blankets, sarapes, and First-, Second-, and Third-Phase Chief blankets.

**Schedule of opening events Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture:**

**\*Free to New Mexico residents. Others by museum admission.**

1:00–4:00 P.M.

Navajo weaving demonstration by Loretta Succo of Crownpoint, New Mexico in the museum lobby

1:30 P.M.

“Diné Weaving: Fine Art in its Cultural Context” in the Kathryn O’Keeffe Theater

2:00 P.M.

Gallery talk with Joyce Begay-Foss (Diné), Director of Education, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, in the Masterpieces, Allred/Crane, Comstock Galleries

2:00–4:00 P.M.

Children’s hands-on weaving activities in the Frank L. Arensberg classroom

2:00–4:00 P.M.

Reception sponsored by the Museum of New Mexico Foundation Women’s Board in the museum lobby

**For images, please contact Steve Cantrell at [steve.cantrell@state.nm.us](mailto:steve.cantrell@state.nm.us)  
or 505-476-1144.**

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*Located on Museum Hill™, the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture shares beautiful Milner Plaza with the Museum of International Folk Art. Here, Now and Always, a major permanent exhibition at the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, combines the voices of living Native Americans with ancient and contemporary artifacts and interactive multimedia to tell the complex stories of the Southwest. The Buchsbaum Gallery displays works from the region’s pueblos. Five changing galleries present exhibits on subjects ranging from archaeological excavations to contemporary art. An outdoor sculpture garden offers rotating exhibits of works by Native American sculptors.*

The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture is a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

**Information for the Public:** The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture is located on Museum Hill™, Camino Lejo off Old Santa Fe Trail. For more information call 505-476-1269 or visit [www.indianartsandculture.org](http://www.indianartsandculture.org).

\*\*Please note New Summer Hours Memorial Day through Labor Day:

Monday through Sunday, 10:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.

During all other seasons, the museum is closed on Mondays.

Admission Prices: School groups free. Children 11 and under free. New Mexico residents with I.D. free on Sundays. New Mexico resident Senior Citizens (age 60+) with I.D. free Wednesdays. Museum Foundation members free. Students with I.D. \$1 discount. Single visit to one museum: \$8.00 for non-state residents; \$6.00 for New Mexico residents. Four day pass to five museums including state-run museums in Santa Fe plus The Museum of Spanish Colonial Art \$18.00. One day pass for two museums (Museum of International Folk Art and Museum of Indian Arts and Culture OR Museum of Fine Arts and Palace of the Governors) \$12.00. Group rate for ten or more people: single visit \$6.00, four day pass \$16.00.