

## Mystery of the Mask Exhibit Information

### **The Mystery of the Mask**

Since 1998 Dallas based photographer Kitty Alice Snead has been organizing expeditions into Mexico's Copper canyon with the ethnologist and guide, Santiago James Barnaby. Their purpose was to visit remote Tarahumara lands known for their existent traditional way of life and ritual practices.

In 2006 Barnaby came to the realization that although the *mate chine* dance was being practiced, the centuries old tradition of using masks by the Tarahumara had disappeared completely from an important area. This prompted him to meet with the village elders, dancers, and local mask carvers to persuade them to re-introduce the iconic mask into the dance. In the spring of 2007 Snead was invited to photograph this historic event. In addition to photographing the re-introduction of the mask into the *mate chine* dance during the Tutu Buri/ Yumari ritual, Snead also made video footage of the event.

The Journal of the Southwest, South West Center, University of Arizona, Tucson published the photo essay in the Summer Issue of '08 of Snead's images on the mask making culture and the return of the historic wooden mask to an area for the first time in over fifty years.

### **The Exhibit**

There are 24 color, Giclee photographs printed on 22 x 17 inch 100% cotton, water color paper. The image size is 20 x 15 inches. The prints are framed 24 x 20 inches.

There are three videos:

Video #1 --documents "horse play and reverie" after the dance. It runs on an 8 inch digital-picture-frame device and is intended to be installed in line with the photographs.

Video #2 – documents a mask carver at work inter woven with scenes of the *mate chine* dance with chapeyoko masks. This video is intended to run on a small, 20 -22 LCD TV.

Video #3 –documents a Tutu Buri/Yumari celebration honoring the birth of The Virgin of Guadalupe. It depicts the colorful *mate chine* dance, and a pagan in origin blessing of the people and the feasting food around the Tutu Buri /Yumari alter. The food is made possible by a respectful, sacrifice of a cow. For this reason the video is intended to be shown in an area separate from the main exhibit. (I believe that it is important for youth to learn and adults to remember that meat as food does not originate on a Styrofoam plate at the grocery.)

### **Integrated Installations**

This exhibit can easily be integrated with Ritual of the Fire Light for a more complete overview. The integrated exhibit comprises 47 prints and three video installations.

### **Smaller installations**

All photographs and or videos may be exhibited and or collected independently as standalone works of art as your institution chooses.

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