

KNOT

KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Peggy Guggenheim Collection - Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation

Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, Dorsoduro, 701, 30123 Venezia (VE)

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Introduction

The famous art collection assembled by Peggy Guggenheim and displayed at Palazzo Venier dei Leoni includes a group of extra-European works, among which are six fine Indigenous American objects of Mesoamerican, Andean and Amazonian origin. Peggy Guggenheim bought these objects in 1959 in New York, and they reflect her partial adherence to the fascination with so-called “primitive art”, then widespread among contemporary artists and collectors. Among those who played a particularly important role in this respect was Max Ernst, with whom Peggy Guggenheim had a brief but important relationship in the early 1940s – a relationship that probably gave rise to her interest in “primitive” art. It is worth noting that several of the American objects appear in historical photographs of Peggy Guggenheim’s home, bearing witness to the changing display arrangements adopted within that refined and elegant domestic setting.

Cultural Areas (tags)

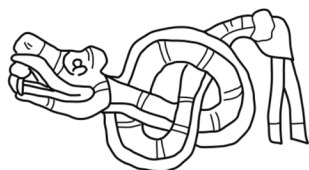
Mesoamerica; Central and Southern Andes; Amazon

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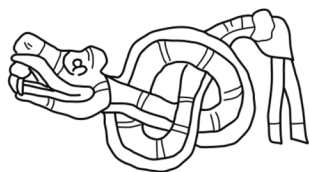
Collection name	Non-Western Art
Collector	Guggenheim, Peggy (1898–1979)
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica; Central and Southern Andes; Amazon
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Ixtlán del Río (Nayarit, Mexico) Kobéwa (Río Uaupés, Brasile) Nasca (Peru) Chancay (Peru)
Description of the collection	<p>Female terracotta figure; Ixtlán del Río style (Nayarit, Mexico); c. 300 BC–AD 400; 40 × 17 × 12 cm (inv. 76.2553.PGC 264).</p> <p>Male terracotta figure (forming a pair with the previous one); Ixtlán del Río style (Nayarit, Mexico); c. 300 BC–AD 400; 45 × 25 × 9 cm (inv. 76.2553.PGC 265).</p> <p>Pair of seated terracotta figures with a woman holding a child; Ixtlán del Río style (Nayarit, Mexico); c. 300 BC–AD 400; 31 × 29 × 15 cm (inv. 76.2553.PGC 266).</p> <p>Ritual bark mask with polychrome painting; Kobéwa ethnic group (Tukano, Upper Rio Uaupés, Brazil); before 1940; 144 × 50 × 38 cm (inv. 76.2553.PGC 261).</p> <p>Three pierced wooden panels intended for funerary use; the central one is carved with a raised anthropomorphic face in the middle section; Chancay cultural sphere (Peru); c. AD 900–1470; 52 × 15 × 2 cm; 49 × 18 × 5 cm; 52 × 15 × 3 cm (inv. 76.2553.PGC 262).</p> <p>Garment (unku) in cotton with applied feathers of</p>

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	various birds forming two rows of camelids, separated by stepped geometric motifs, on a white ground; Nasca cultural sphere (Peru); c. AD 100–700; 74 × 73 cm (inv. 76.2553.PGC 263).
History of the collection	Peggy Guggenheim acquired all six American artefacts in 1959, in New York, from Julius Hirsch Carlebach (1909–1964), one of the leading dealers in extra-European art of the time.
Online database	Collezione online della Peggy Guggenheim Collection
Web page	
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Calas, N., E. Calas. 1967. <i>The Peggy Guggenheim Collection of Modern Art</i>. New York: Harry N. Abrahams. ● Campione, F.P., ed. 2008. <i>Ethnopassion. La collezione d'arte etnica di Peggy Guggenheim</i>. Milano: Mazzotta. Con schede oggetti americani ad opera di Antonio Aimi e Maria Camilla de Palma. ● Guggenheim, P. 1998. <i>Una vita per l'arte. Confessioni di una donna che ha amato l'arte e gli artisti</i>, 371. Milano: Rizzoli.

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