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Navajo Sandpainting Art



Synopsis

A Guide to Navajo Sandpaintings provides the best introduction to the religious images created by Navajo medicine men as part of traditional curing ceremonies. These carefully prescribed designs depict ancient Navajo gods and heroes to whom medicine men appeal to help restore their patients to harmony. Every shape and color has to be just right lest irremediable harm come to medicine man and his patient. Although many ancient sandpaintings designs and their accompanying chants have been lost to time, others remain a vital part of Navajo religious practice and have emerged as a dynamic art form. Navajo artists now incorporate heroes, gods, traditional design icons, and landscape features from their homeland into stunning, contemporary. In A Guide to Navajo Sandpaintings, noted Native American arts authority Mark Bahti describes the history and development of this healing art. For each of the more than sixty individual sandpaintings included, Bahti provides the legend from which the design originated. He also explains how contemporary artists honor the traditions of their elders while breaking new ground for this fascinating art form.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

First, the history of the sand paintings was detailed. The pictures and illustrations were beautiful as well as informative. What I appreciated best was the information on modern sand painting, especially the permanent (non-sand) paintings made by modern Native American artists. The author explains what to look for when investing in such paintings (so that you don't buy a fake). The author also explains how artists painting permanent sand paintings will always make a small mistake because real sand paintings must never be permanent.

Just wished it show more and did a more in depth discussions.

This book is not comprehensive or lengthy by any means, but it is great for anyone with an interest in Navajo sandpaintings. It explains the myths behind common sandpainting designs, giving some insight into Navajo culture. Having some knowledge adds to the appreciation of the art form.

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