

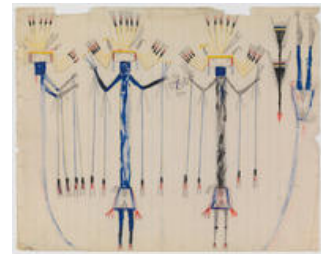
DONALD ELLIS GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

New York, September 28, 2020

LINE AND COLOUR

Historical Native American Drawing from North to South



1. Ledger Drawing, Attributed to Big Tree, Cedar Tree Ledger Book (pg.25), Southern Arapaho, Central Plains, ca. 1880, crayon and graphite on lined paper, 7 ¼" x 12 ½"
2. Bent-Corner Chest, Haisla or Coast Tsimshian, ca. 1840-1860, red cedar, red turban snail opercula, 17 ¼" x 28" x 19"
3. Memory Aid Drawing, Navajo, Arizona or New Mexico, ca. 1940, graphite and watercolour on paper, 8" x 10"

FRIEZE VIEWING ROOM 2020

October 9-16, 2020

Preview Days: Wednesday, October 7 and Thursday, October 8, 2020

Donald Ellis Gallery is pleased to announce its participation in the second edition of Frieze Viewing Room, a digital platform hosting both Frieze London and Frieze Masters 2020. Frieze Viewing Room will be live October 9–16, 2020, with an invitation-only preview October 7–8.

For this year's edition of Frieze Viewing Room, the gallery will present a selection of rare historical Native American drawings spanning various Indigenous cultures across Canada and the United States.

In the absence of a written language, drawing, with its origins as pictographic images on rock surfaces, acted as a means of transmitting culturally shared belief systems, social values and collective as well as individual histories. In comparison to the Western notion of drawing, intimately linked as it is to the flat surface of paper, the works presented in this exhibition occur on a variety of media, from sculptural works in wood, to paper, hide and muslin. Their forms of expression range from abstraction to figural representation coded by regional differences as much as by gendered conventions.

The gallery is proud to present a curated selection of historical Native American art that showcases the high level of sophistication of these artistic traditions. From the highly conventionalized formline designs of the Northwest Coast to the figurative Ledger art of Plains cultures, from modern Inuit drawing on paper to the memory aids of the southwestern United States, the works in this exhibition relate to a variety of cultural

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practices. Despite their individual differences, they all share an economy of gesture that grant the works a distinct dynamic quality and provide us a rare glimpse into their maker's fascinating worlds. We believe that turning to voices from Native cultures is not only important and extremely rewarding but it is also more timely than ever.

We are pleased to announce that a Ledger Drawing attributed to the Southern Cheyenne warrior artist Nahhi-yurs (aka Carl Matches) was selected by Sir Norman Rosenthal as one of 36 works of art for the fairs newly curated section *Forever*. This special section will explore the premise that great art is forever, showcasing works that have stood - and in the curator's mind will stand - the test of time.

In response to the current global health crisis Donald Ellis Gallery will donate 10% of all sales to relief efforts. Purchasers will have their choice in supporting one of the following charitable organizations:

The Center for American Indian Health
Navajo & Hopi Families Covid-19 Relief Fund
City Meals on Wheels

Donald Ellis Gallery is widely recognized as the internationally pre-eminent dealer in the field of historical Native American art. Founded in 1976, the gallery maintains a particular emphasis on the art of the Northwest Coast, Inuit and Plains cultures.

For more information and Press Images please contact us at info@donaldellisgallery.com or call +1-646-577-9489.