

"Sisters of the Earth" artists exhibit traditional, modern and spiritual experience



"Sheep woman."

Sisters of the Earth: Contemporary Native American Ceramics opening night at the Museum of Warm Springs was held December 9, 1994, in the Changing Exhibits Gallery. This exhibition project was organized by Gallery Director Peter Held and Portland artist Lillian Pitt. Participating artists, all from the Southwest are: Elizabeth and Pablita Abeyta, Anita Fields, Nora Naranjo-Morse, Joanna Osburn-Bigfeather, and Roxanne Swentzell.

The idea for this exhibition grew out of their mutual interest in contemporary Native American ceramists focusing on the figure. "Sisters of the Earth" explores how six women artists integrate centuries-old native traditions with contemporary thought. Rather than feeling encumbered by ancient methods, they seek multiple perspectives in finding artistic solutions. Their art is being presented to the Northwest for the first time. They bridge the gap between traditional and modern, emotional and spiritual experience in the process of working with clay. They share an interest in portraying a range of human activity, yet differ in aesthetic tastes, sensibilities, and direction.

The women in this show have a strong sense of self-identity. Through their work, they affirm the relationship between humankind and the environment. As we catapult towards the 21st century, it becomes increasingly important to reaffirm our ancestral past, and to live in balance with the realities of modern times. One hopes that by doing so, future generations may better understand their place in the world and are left with a strong foundation to build upon.

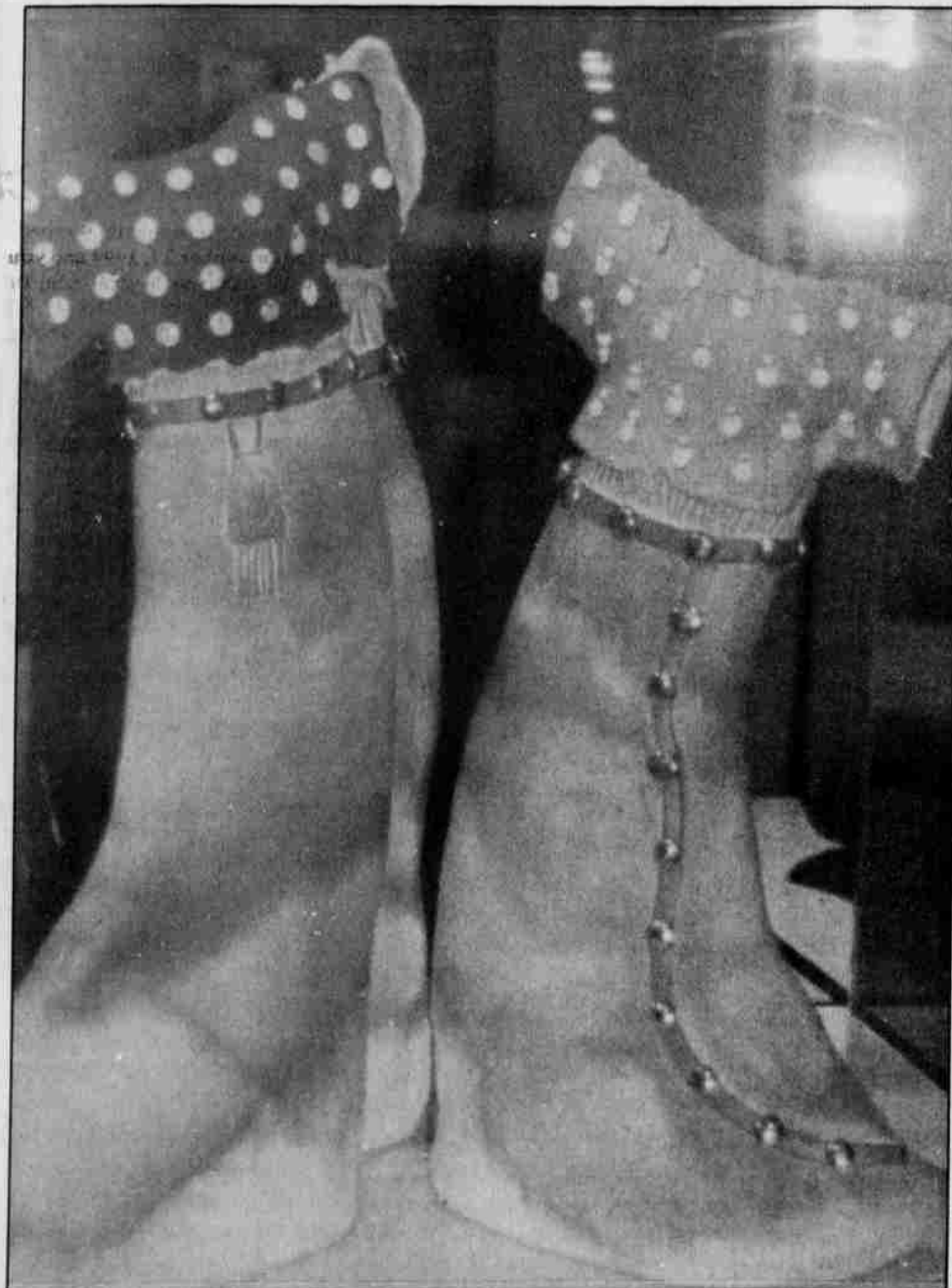


Many figures were exhibited.

Photos by
Selena T. Boise



Cast iron art was part of exhibit.



Dresses were exhibited.



Many people observed the pieces of ceramic art.



Lillian Pitt reorganizes exhibit during grand opening.