

Contact:

Jennifer Howell

Public Relations

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

(847)475-1030

jhowell@mitchellmuseum.org

**Final Weeks of Mitchell Museum of the American Indian's
"Miniature Artwork-Enormous Appeal" Exhibit**

February 3, 2016—Mitchell Museum of the American Indian's exhibit "Miniature Artwork - Enormous Appeal", which opened last spring, is closing February 14. The exhibit features miniature interpretations of Native American utilitarian and ceremonial objects including basketry, silverwork, carving, weaving and pottery from the 1900s to today. It compares beautifully handcrafted objects to their full size counterparts; showcasing the tremendous skill and dexterity required to create the miniature objects with the same technique and design detail.

Miniatures came about under a variety of circumstances in the Native American and First Nation communities of the United States and Canada. At the turn of the 19th century, train routes entered rural Native American and First Nation communities where tourists first saw and wanted to buy Native products. Commerce generated collectors who encouraged and supported local artists. The artists produced utilitarian and traditional items in a small, portable size perfect for collectibles. As Euro-American ideas and styles influenced and changed the cultural landscape of Native communities, the artists developed innovative and traditional designs of miniatures in basketry, silverwork, carving, and pottery.

Even prior to the tourist train depots that dotted Native communities across America, indigenous people hand-crafted miniature tools, small-scale household items and dolls. These durable and miniature items served as teaching tools for Native children to learn lifeways, responsibility, and caring, thereby sustaining the traditional values of Native families and tribes.

"Miniature Artwork - Enormous Appeal" features exquisite examples of miniatures from tribal communities across the United States and Canada. Among Items on display are Woodland miniature baskets made of wood splints and braided sweet grass, A 2.5- inch miniature carving of the Hopi female deity Pahlik katsina and its 12-inch counterpart, and Inuit carved ivory items including a seal, micro dog sled team bracelet, and musk ox.

The Mitchell Museum is one of only a handful of museums in the country that focuses exclusively on the art, history and culture of American Indian and First Nation peoples throughout the United States and Canada. In 2012, The Mitchell Museum was named “Best Museum of The North Shore: Up and Comer” by *Make it Better* magazine, won the Superior award by the Illinois Association of Museums and was named a national finalist by the American Association of State and Local History award program. The *Chicago Tribune* named the Mitchell Museum one of its top 10 museums for 2015.

For more information about The Mitchell Museum of The American Indian, visit www.mitchellmuseum.org, call 847-475-1030 or see our verified Facebook page. The museum is located in Evanston, Illinois at 3001 Central Street. It is open Tuesday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday- Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, students and children and Free for Mitchell Museum members and Tribal members.

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