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ANCIENT AMERICAN ART 3500 BC-AD 1532

MASTERWORKS OF THE PRE-COLUMBIAN ERA

TEXTS BY GILLET GRIFFIN, DORIE BUDET, MAGDALENA AND ANDRZEJ ANTCHAK, SAGRARIO BERTI AND JEAN-FRANÇOIS BOUCHARD

Hundreds of works of pre-Columbian art little known to the general public or specialist are brought together in this lavishly illustrated volume.

The pre-Columbian art of Latin America is still being discovered in the mountain valleys, deserts, tropical jungles and storerooms of museums and private collectors. From ancient Valdivian figurines and vessels made 5000 years before the arrival of Europeans to Inca and Aztec objects created just before the Spanish arrived, the rich array of ancient Latin America cultures is represented here, in the Jimmy and Leonora Belilty collection. Spanning fifty centuries and covering the vast geographic expanse from southern Peru to northern Mexico, this collection presents a remarkable survey of ancient American art. There are images of gods, portraits of men and women, representations of animals and plants, and objects of pure abstraction. Jade, gold, clay, stone, wood, bone and shell objects reveal the wide variety of materials pre-Columbian artists used.

Assembled with an aesthetic eye and personal passion by collectors deeply familiar with modern and contemporary art, the selection is both personal and universal, a surprise and inspiration to all. Artistic quality, originality of concept and mastery of materials and workmanship are the pillars of the collection. Although this volume is not intended to be an encyclopaedia of pre-Columbian art, the objects evoke the creativity of ancient American artists and the complicated worldview that is the foundation of pre-Columbian culture. The Discovery of America continues with this book.