



Wearable Art

Plains Indian Clothing and Accessories from the Gordon Smith Collection (Working Title)

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

Clothing of all cultures has continued to evolve over the centuries with the introduction of new styles and materials. *Wearable Art* explores the production process of Plains Indian clothing and accessories, as well as how their traditional methods and designs evolved after the European arrival.

Visitors will learn how the Plains Indians acquired their materials from nature and through trade. The exhibit will also explore how these diverse materials were then used to create a final product.

Examples of the clothing and accessories worn throughout the Great Plains will be displayed to illustrate the information given in the text panels. A section on ceremonial objects will also draw attention to the spiritual beliefs of the Plains people, and differentiate between clothing worn for rituals with clothing worn every day.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Visitors are introduced to Plains Indian culture before they even begin their clothing and accessories journey.
- Bows, arrows, rifles, and scrapers emphasize the prominence of natural materials, like animal hides, and the labor intensive work involved in their preparation.
- Tribal similarities and differences in clothing style are addressed to emphasize the diversity of the Great Plains region.
- Objects adorned with glass beads, quills, and other decorative elements are displayed to emphasize that practical items could also be works of art.
- The exhibit culminates in two outfits, one male and one female, to illustrate how all the pieces fit together to create a finished product.



SIZE

117 Objects

Approximately 3,000 sq. ft.

CONTACT

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