



Dan Smith/Makah

SHOP WISELY... TIPS FOR BUYING

- When purchasing from a dealer choose one with a good reputation.
- Request a written guarantee or written verification of authenticity.
- Get a receipt that includes all the vital information about your purchase, including price, maker and maker's Tribal affiliation.
- Familiarize yourself with the different materials and types of American Indian arts and crafts, as well as the indicators of a well made, handcrafted piece.
- Realize that authentic handmade pieces may be expensive but it's an investment. If a price seems too good to be true, be sure to ask more questions about the item and its maker.



Denise Emerson/Skokomish/Navajo



Micah Vogel/Makah

What is the Indian Arts and Crafts Act?

The Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-644) is a truth-in-advertising law that prohibits misrepresentation in marketing of Indian arts and crafts products within the United States.

What does this mean?

It is illegal to offer or display for sale, or sell any art or craft product in a manner that falsely suggests it is Indian produced, an Indian product, or the product of a particular Indian or Indian Tribe or Indian arts and crafts organization within the United States.

What are the penalties for people who knowingly mislead consumers?

For a first time violation of the Act, an individual can face civil or criminal penalties up to a \$250,000 fine or a 5-year prison term, or both. If a business violates the Act, it can face civil penalties or can be prosecuted and fined up to \$1,000,000.

The law covers all authentic Indian traditional and contemporary arts and crafts produced after 1935. The Act broadly applies to the marketing of arts and crafts by any person in the United States. "Indian Style" typically indicates non-Indian created arts or crafts.

All products must be marketed truthfully regarding the Indian heritage and tribal affiliation of the producers, so as not to mislead the consumer.

It is illegal to market an art or craft item using the name of a tribe if a member, or certified Indian artisan, of that tribe did not actually create the art or craft item.

For example, violations of the act would include products sold using a sign claiming "Indian Jewelry" would be a violation of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act if the jewelry was produced by someone other than a member, or certified Indian artisan, of an Indian tribe. Products advertised as "Hopi Jewelry" would be in violation of the Act if they were produced by someone who is not a member, or certified Indian artisan, of the Hopi tribe.



Jerry Laktonen/Alutiiq Kodiak

Washington State needs its own Indian Arts and Crafts Act.

Currently 12 other states including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas have their own versions of the Federal Indian Arts and Crafts Act. We would like Washington to join them.



**American Friends
Service Committee**

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YOUR RIGHTS AS A CONSUMER

If you think a business or individual is selling a non-authentic art or craft item as an American Indian product, the action may be a violation of the federal law regulating the industry. For more information or to file a complaint(s) contact:

**Indian Arts and Crafts Board
(IACB)
U.S. Department of the Interior***

1849 C Street, NW,
MS 2528 MIB
Washington, DC 20240
1-888-Art-Fake or
1-888-278-3253
www.iacb.doi.gov

* This brochure has not yet been approved by IACB.

My Art's Authentic is Yours?



Micah Vogel/Makah

**Protect Yourself
Know the Indian Arts and
Crafts Act**