

## Grove Gallery presents New Guinean Folk Art

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UCSD GROVE GALLERY PRESENTS NEW GUINEAN FOLK ART

The University of California, San Diego Crafts Center/Grove Gallery will feature primitive New Guinea art in its upcoming show, "Contemporary Folk Art of New Guinea," from Jan. 28 to Feb. 15. There will be a public reception from 6-8 p.m. on Jan. 28.

The pieces selected for this show are on loan from the private collection of Jim Geisler. Geisler collected the artifacts during trips to New Guinea for his Lakeside, California import business.

The Papua New Guinea artifacts offer a glimpse a society highly influenced by religion. Certain New Guinean tribal ceremonies display belief in the supernatural. For instance, a rare body mask on display was once used in ceremonies involving taboos. The yam masks on exhibit are traditionally placed on those vegetables to give them human characteristics to honor the spirits of deceased clan members. Many similar objects are still used in New Guinean tribal ceremonies.

The ancient carving on a canoe splashboard is so detailed that its origin can easily be distinguished from other New Guinea clans and those of nearby islands. The craftsmanship of the people can also be seen through the jewelry and pottery on exhibit.

The tools on display such as axes, hooks and bone daggers bring to life the constant struggles these aborigines have had for food, and represent the territorial battles the clans have fought. The diversity of this exhibit offers a better understanding of the cultural background of this society.

Even though the New Guinean collection has its religious aspects, Geisler feels that many of the objects represent a whimsical element of their culture by showing the lighter side of a sometimes serious and ritualistic culture.

The UCSD Crafts Center/Grove Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free parking is available on weekends. For additional information on this show and upcoming shows at the Grove Gallery, telephone Ron Carlson at 452-2637.

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