

Background Reading

About the *Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists* exhibition:

The Smithsonian American Art Museum/Renwick Gallery includes the following description on its website:

Women have long been the creative force behind Native American art, yet their individual contributions have been largely unrecognized, instead treated as anonymous representations of entire cultures. *Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists* explores the artistic achievements of Native women and establishes their rightful place in the art world. This landmark exhibition is the first major thematic show to explore the artistic achievements of Native women. Its presentation at SAAM's Renwick Gallery includes 82 artworks dating from antiquity to the present, made in a variety of media from textiles and beadwork, to sculpture, time-based media and photography. At the core of this exhibition is a firm belief in the power of the collaborative process.

About Co-Curator Teri Greeves:

Teri Greeves is a beadwork artist who lives in Santa Fe, NM. She is enrolled in the Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma. Teri follows and updates the Kiowa tradition of beadwork, to tell the story of the American Indian, both contemporary and historical. Her works include beaded books, jewelry, and even hightop sneakers. Her work is found in such public collections as the Heard Museum, the Museum of Arts and Design, the Brooklyn Museum, the Denver Art Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, the New Mexico Museum of Art, and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture.

About Artist Carla Hemlock:

Carla Hemlock is a textile and mixed media artist. Her work has been included in group exhibits in the United States, Canada, Germany, Russia and France. She was the recipient of the 2017 Excellence in Iroquois Arts from the Iroquois Museum in Howes Cave, New York. Her work *Tribute to the Mohawk Ironworkers*, was included in the 2019 Smithsonian American Women, Remarkable Objects and Stories of Strength, Ingenuity and Vision from the National Collection. She was on the advisory board for the Minneapolis Institute of Arts for the 2019/2020 *Hearts of our People Native Women Artists* exhibit. Her works are in private and public collections including the Smithsonian Museum of American Art and Renwick Gallery, The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC, The Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The National Museum of Fine Arts in Quebec City, and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis MN. She lives and has her studio in Kahnawake Mohawk Territory.