

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 both the Federal and State laws regulating the industry.

For more information or to file a complaint(s), contact:

Indian Arts and Crafts Board



U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, MS 2528-MIB
Washington, DC 20240
(888) Art-Fake or (888) 278-3253
www.iacb.doi.gov
iacb@ios.doi.gov

Arizona Office of the Attorney General

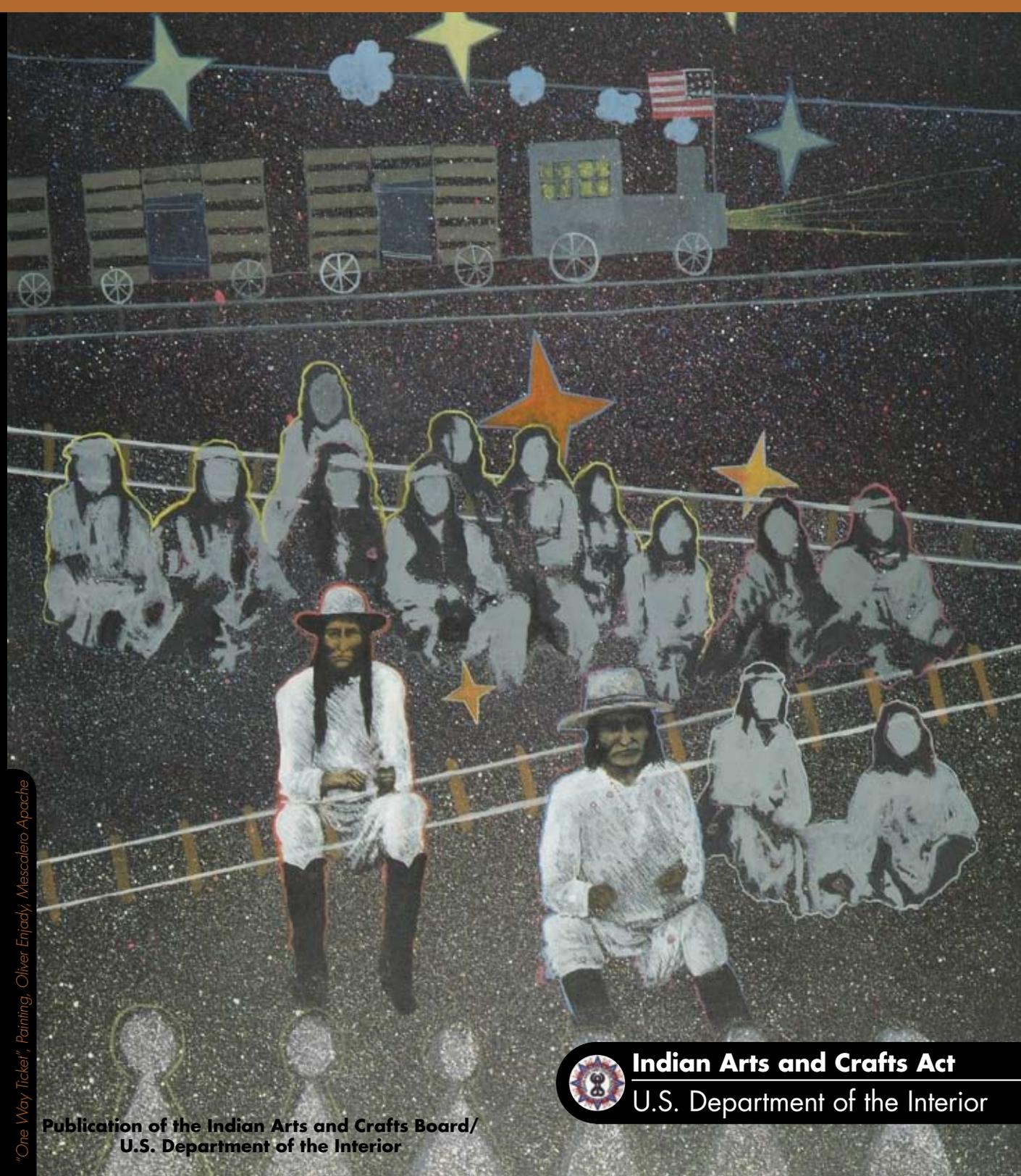


2005 N Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 542-5763 (Phoenix)
(520) 628-6504 (Tucson)
(800) 352-8431 (outside Phoenix and Tucson)
www.azag.gov

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... if a price seems too good to be true, be sure to ask more questions about the item and its maker

"One Way Ticket", Painting, Oliver Enjady, Mescalero Apache



Indian Arts and Crafts Act
U.S. Department of the Interior

Publication of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board/
U.S. Department of the Interior



Take Home a Treasure from Indian Country

Buy Authentic Arizona American Indian Art

Internationally recognized for their unique style and superior craftsmanship, the American Indian artists and craftspeople of Arizona share the culture and history of the state and their communities through the creation of premium handmade works of art.

Whether you are drawn to the weavings, pottery, jewelry, or any of the various forms of art and craft created by one of Arizona's 22 federally recognized Tribes/Nations, finding and bringing home an authentic handmade item will enhance your experience in Arizona, while helping to ensure the preservation of regional American Indian traditions.

Before you shop, there is some important information you should know about purchasing American Indian art in Arizona.

As the popularity of these high quality and unique art forms continues to increase, so does the production and sale of items misrepresented as authentic American Indian work.

You can help protect yourself by becoming familiar with the laws regulating the sale of American Indian arts and crafts in Arizona, and by considering the shopping tips provided in this brochure.



Coiled Basket Bowl, Hopi

Prayer and Dance Fan, Patrick Scott, Navajo



Prohibited by Federal Law...

Under the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-644), as amended, it is illegal to offer or display for sale, any art or craft product in a manner that falsely suggests it is American Indian produced, an American Indian product, or the product of a particular American Indian Tribe.

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 American Indian artisan*, of that Tribe did not actually create the art or craft item.

For example, products sold using a sign claiming "Indian Jewelry – Direct from the Reservation," would be a violation of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act if the jewelry was produced by someone other than a member, or certified American Indian artisan, of an American 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 of the Hopi Tribe.

Covering all American Indian and Indian-style traditional and contemporary arts and crafts produced after 1935, the Indian Arts and Crafts Act broadly applies to the marketing of arts and crafts by any person within the United States.

The Indian Arts and Crafts Act is administered by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior.



Necklace, Navajo

Prohibited by State Law...

According to Arizona statutes 44-1231 – 44-1231.05, it is unlawful to sell or offer to sell any products represented to be authentic Indian arts and crafts unless the products are authentic.

Authentic Indian arts and crafts products are Indian handcrafted and are not made by machine or from unnatural materials, except stabilized or treated turquoise.

It is prohibited to offer for sale or sell art and craft products that contain any unnatural turquoise without a written disclosure of whether the turquoise is stabilized, treated, reconstituted, or synthetic. Similarly, a product may only be represented to be of silver, regardless whether it is an authentic or non-authentic Indian art or craft, if the product is made of coin silver or sterling silver.

An individual who sells or offers to sell non-authentic Indian arts and crafts must post a sign bearing the words, "non-authentic Indian arts and crafts" above or adjacent to the articles being sold.

For purposes of this statute, "non-authentic Indian arts and crafts" refers to any product which is made to imitate or resemble authentic Indian arts and crafts, yet is either not Indian handcrafted, or is made by a machine or from unnatural materials.

Bracelet, Bob Lomadapki, Hopi



*Certified Indian artisan is an individual who is certified by the governing body of an Indian Tribe as a non-member Indian artisan.