



Caskey & Lees

P.O. Box 1409, Topanga, California 90290
Telephone 310.455.2886
Facsimile 310.455.1951
info@caskeylees.com
www.caskeylees.com

New York Tribal and Textile Arts Show Will Not Take Place in 2010

(For Immediate Release, March 12, Topanga, CA) The New York International Tribal and Textile Arts Show, normally held in New York City in conjunction with Tribal and Ethnographic auctions at the city's major auction houses in late May will not take place this year, show producers Caskey-Lees of Topanga, CA, announced today.

Founded in New York in 1995, this show, the East Coast edition of the San Francisco Tribal and Textile Arts Show successfully staged again this February, has struggled to attract exhibitors since the exorbitant rents set by the new ownership of the Park Avenue Armory, and the army drill schedule at the 69th Regiment forced the show to relocate twice in three years. By early March of this year, only 24 exhibitors had contracted to participate.

In a letter to exhibitors announcing the cancellation, the show's producers, Bill Caskey and Elizabeth Lees wrote: "To attempt to produce and promote a show, with any reasonable level of quality, for only 24 exhibitors would result in a loss of several hundred thousand dollars," continuing, "at the same time, to reduce production values and quality for a show Holland Cotter of the New York Times called "fabulous" would be a disservice to exhibitors and show visitors alike." The letter also told exhibitors that their deposits would be returned.

"This was an exceptionally difficult decision for us both," Bill Caskey said, "because we are serious supporters of the ethnographic and textile fields, have collected for decades, and have, over the past two years, re-designed and re-priced all our specialty shows to help dealers and collectors through this difficult economy." "Sadly," he continued, "tribal and ethnographic works are much more about passion and scholarship than about using fine art as a hedge against currency or equity volatility and as a consequence dealers and galleries in the tribal arts have been hit hard in recent months, with their most fervent clients unable to collect and their wealthiest returning to the equities markets."

The longer term future of the New York edition of the International Tribal and Textile Arts Show remains uncertain but the San Francisco Textile and Tribal Arts Show will continue, as will Caskey Lee's other important specialty fairs including New York Arts of Pacific Asia, opening March 24th at 7 W, at number 7 West 34th St.; the Los Angeles Asian and Tribal Arts Show in November of 2010; the New York Ceramics Fair in January of 2011; and San Francisco Arts of Pacific Asia in February of 2011.