

**The Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Accessions Proposal**

Curator: Joe D. Horse Capture

Department: African, Oceanic, and Native American Art

Date: February 15, 2010

1. Description and Summary of Object:

Loan number: L2009.151

Artist/Maker: Hopi, Southwest region

Title/Object: Butterfly Maiden Kachina (Palhik Mana)

Date: 1880-1920

Medium: wood, pigments

Dimensions: 17 x 13 x 3 11/16 inches (43.18 x 33.02 x 9.37 cm)

Country of manufacture: USA

Vendor: Toby Herbst, Santa Fe, NM

Present Location: MIA

Price: \$XXXXXX

2. Artist and Style: Hopi men carved small wooden sculptures that represent characters from their spirit world. In Hopi cosmology, there are over 250 spirits known as kachinas (or katsinas). The kachinas used to visit this world long ago from the clouds, but now only their representatives appear in Hopi villages from winter solstice to mid-July. These representatives, men dressed in decorated masks and outfits representing the individual kachinas, conduct the appropriate ceremonies that maintain harmony and teach Hopi values in the villages. Traditionally, the kachina dancers would give children small sculptures of the kachinas during the ceremony, which would be hung on the wall of their homes. They would serve as educational tools for parents to teach the meaning of specific kachinas and their role in traditional life. In the latter half of the 19th century, the appeal of the kachina dolls caught the eye of western tourists, and Hopi artists responded

by carving dolls for the market. Since that time, old kachinas have become valuable collector items.

This sculpture, which was probably created for Native use, is known as the Butterfly Maiden or Palhik Mana. It underscores the importance of regeneration and yearly renewal. The irregular edges of the tableta she wears represent rain clouds, and the small wooden objects protruding from the top of her head symbolize flowers. There is a horizontal piece on her forehead that represents an ear of corn. The black geometric paint on the torso and lower body of the figure are designs found on Hopi textiles.

3. Condition: Some small cracks, flaking paint, and signs of wear. The tableta is slightly loose. Overall Good. Complete condition report on file in Registration department.

4. Provenance: Toby Herbst bought this object from another dealer who purchased it from a family in California.

5. Related Objects: Kachina Doll (Shalako), Hopi, late 19th century, accession number 04.297.5535, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY; Butterfly Maiden (Palhik Mana) Hopi, accessioned in 1913, accession number 2-9919, Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, Berkeley, CA; Doll representing Palhik Mana (Butterfly Maiden), Hopi, late 19th/early 20th century, accession number 1937-5-236, University of Virginia Art Museum, Charlottesville, VA; Kachina Doll, Balhikw-mana Katchina, Hopi, 19th/20th century [?], catalog number 50/9322 accession number 1910-37, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY; Tihu Doll, Balhikw-mana, Hopi, 19th/20th century [?], catalog number 50/9321 accession number 1910-37, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY

6. Complements the existing collection: There are only a few kachinas in the MIA's collection, and all are of low quality. Other Hopi objects in the collection consist of ceramics and silverwork. Sculpture is an important aspect of Hopi artistic expression, and should be better represented in the collection.

7. Plans for exhibiting: This object would be installed in the Native American art gallery during the next annual rotation, which is currently scheduled for June 2010.

8. Why do you recommend the object? The Native American art collection has a few kachinas in the collection, but none of them are of this scale or importance. We have very little sculpture created by the tribes of the Southwest region, and this kachina is a great example of their carving style. It is rare that a kachina of this size comes to the market; most kachinas are around 12 inches tall. This kachina has had some Native use, evident by the vibrant painting. Its Native owner has repainted important aspects of the

sculpture, like the skirt and tableta. It is unusual that the wooden hairpins, which represent flowers, have survived with the object. This kachina is certainly one of the best to be available for purchase in some time. Lastly, kachinas represent the complex spiritual world of the Hopi, and can be used for educational purposes in the gallery.

9. Comparable market prices: Christies-New York NY, December 1998, lot 387, An Important Early Hopi Polychrome Cottonwood Kachina Doll, \$107,000; Skinner-Boston, MA, may 22, 2004, lot 327, Southwest Polychrome Carved Wood Katsina, \$8,813; Christies-Paris, France, July 5, 2005, lot 139, Kachina, €19,200 (\$23,133); Sotheby's-New York, NY, May 8, 2006, lot 69, A Hopi Polychrome Wood Kachina Doll, \$21,600; Skinner-Boston, MA, January 24, 2009, lot 296, \$15,405. The date of this object, large size, and good condition justify its relatively higher price.

Signature and Date