

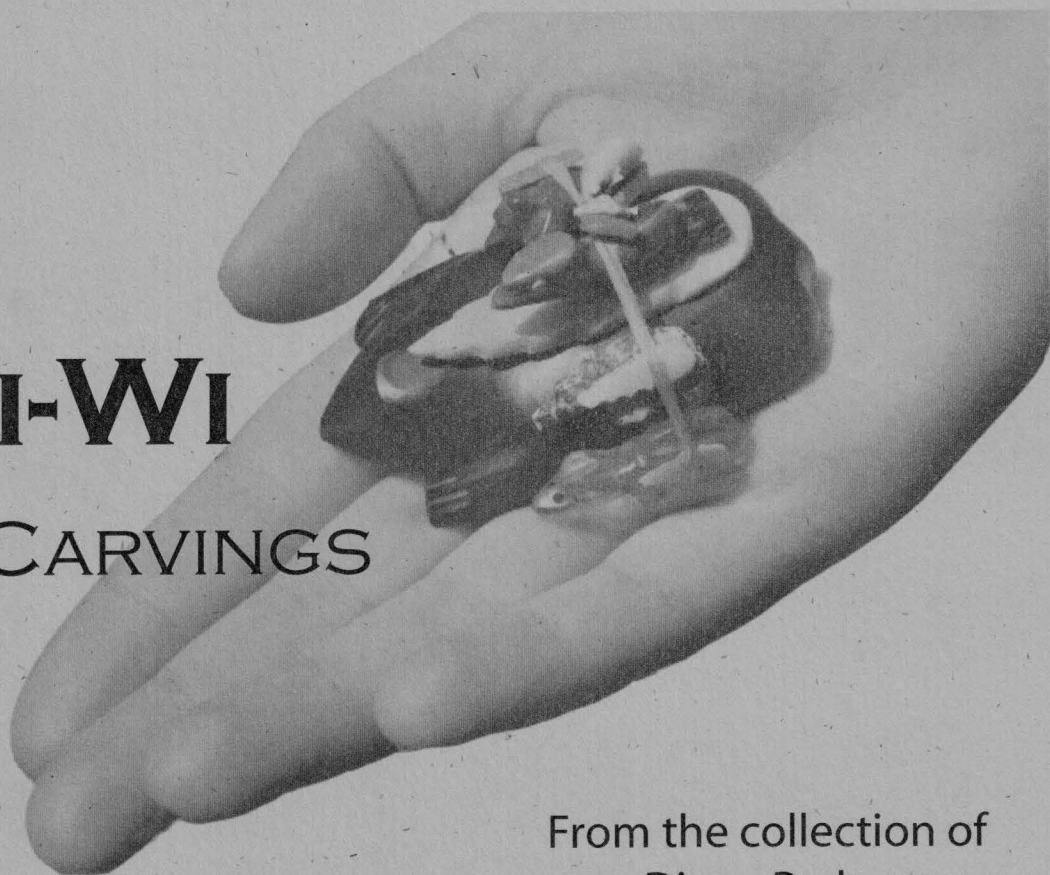
Western
Gallery

A-SHI-WI

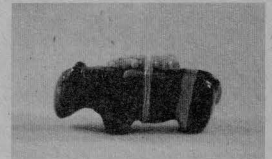
ZUNI CARVINGS

May 29 - June 14

From the collection of
Diane Parker

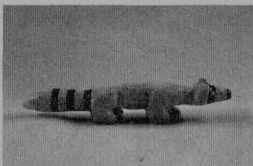


Wema:we (WEH-mah'-weh) translates literally to "prey animals" in Zuni. In recent years it has taken on a secondary meaning referring to the fetish carvings sold in shops on and off the Zuni Reservation. The village of Zuni lies one hundred and fifty miles west of the Rio Grande Valley on the border of Arizona and New Mexico.

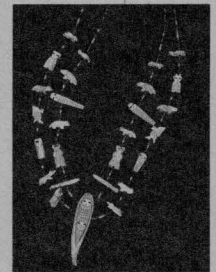


It is a village of about ten thousand people and is increasing at a rate of three hundred people per year. The people of Zuni have retained much of their cultural heritage and traditions despite the Spanish discovery of Zuni in 1528 and subsequent invasion in 1540.

This may be a result of the area's remoteness and its vulnerability to Apache and Navajo raids. Few Spanish civilians settled in Zuni and none before the late nineteenth century.



Artistry has always been an important part of Zuni culture. Between fifty to ninety percent of Zunis are artists, and this is the predominant livelihood and source of income of the village.



The traditional rituals and customs of the Zuni way of life have been well preserved even with the more recent influence of Spanish and American culture.



Resources: The Fetish Carvers of Zuni; Marion Rodee, James Ostler
Zuni Fetiches; Frank Hamilton Cushing