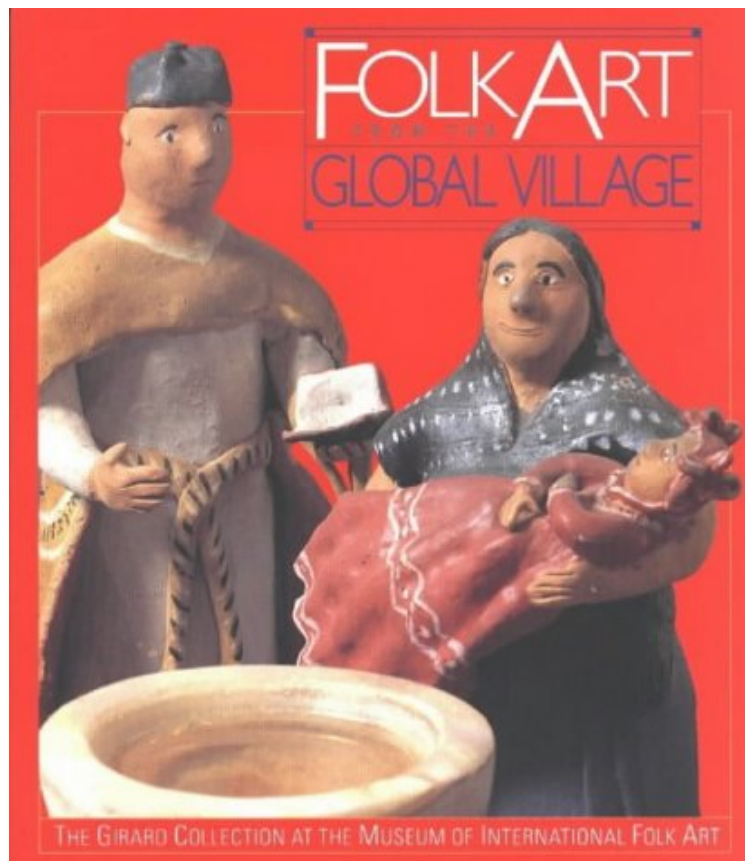


(Free download) Folk Art from the Global Village: The Girard Collection at the Museum of International Folk Art

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Jack Lenor Larsen

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Jack Lenor Larsen : Folk Art from the Global Village: The Girard Collection at the Museum of International Folk Art before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Folk Art from the Global Village: The Girard Collection at the Museum of International Folk Art:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By robert cgreat book3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Just a Sip ..By Gio... of the potent brew you'll imbibe at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I've toured a lot of museums - in Europe, Asia, North America - but I've never encountered one like this. I spent a whole day there, a beautiful sunny day at that, utterly engrossed in the "Girard Collection" of ceramics, woodworks, and fabrics from all around the world, but especially from the American Southwest, Mexico, Peru, West Africa, Portugal, Poland, and China. The Girard Wing of the Museum is a building the size of half a football field, in which more than 10,000 pieces of folk art are assembled in a complex of 'cross-cultural villages' designed and mounted by the single donor of the collection himself over a three-year period. I was told that the exhibit amounts to

only a tenth of the full collection! As it stands, it has the appeal of the world's largest "doll house" and the world's most elaborate "model train". One can get utterly lost, becoming a scale-model virtual tourist, in the Peruvian, Mexican, or Hopi villages, each of which includes hundreds of figures and objects, or in the global diversity of the "open market" exhibit, a plethora of witty and evocative ceramic sculptures from every land that still pulses with the vivacity of such markets. This little book chiefly shows pictures of single pieces, all exciting enough one by one, but it only vaguely hints of the impact of immersing yourself in the whole collection. Alexander Girard, the collector and donor, was an architect and fabric designer of enormous success; his wealth and his obsession with folk art were the total basis of this collection, which is, in my opinion, one of the greatest treasures of humanity and of humanity's heritage. In other words, you've got to see it! And as a bonus, the museum cafe on Santa Fe's "Museum Hill" is a gourmet wonder, with food in the Hispanic tradition as excellent as the city's most acclaimed "Las Tapas" restaurant. Santa Fe is a beautiful 'city of art', with a museum devoted entirely to Georgia O'Keefe and with literally scores of galleries, some shlocky but many replete with stuff I'd love to have a home grand enough to house for myself. Plus there's the Santa Fe Opera, a semi-outdoor summer-festival company of world quality. The opera building has astonishingly good acoustics, to my surprise and pleasure, and the season of 2011 will include Antonio Vivaldi's opera 'Griselda'. I'll be there; you'll want to be there too.

Alexander Girard (1907-1993) amassed the largest cross-cultural folk art collection in the world. To date over a million visitors have flocked to the folk art museum in Santa Fe to savor and take delight in the bright and beautiful objects that inspired the renowned architect and designer. Girard was captivated by the "handcrafted" cultures of the world and saw the tragedy of their demise. Yet as a collector he was looking not to capture the past but to nourish the spirit of mankind and encourage the art that we can create for ourselves now. The Girard Wing at the Museum of International Folk Art, designed by the collector to permanently exhibit some ten thousand pieces and visited by millions, continually affirms that Girard was right in believing that in folk art there are no foreigners. This book features one hundred plates in full color and an essay by Jack Lenor Larsen. In all, over one hundred countries are represented: African tribal sculpture, Mexican Day of the Dead figures, sub-Saharan textiles, toys from around the world, and much more.

About the Author Jack Lenor Larsen is a world-renowned innovator in fabric design and technology. He lives in East Hampton, New York.