

NATIONAL  
MUSEUM  
OF THE  
AMERICAN  
INDIAN

# MOTHER EARTH

CONFRONTING THE  
CHALLENGE  
OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
SYMPOSIUM

2 TO 4:30 P.M. • SATURDAY  
**JUNE 27, 2009**  
ELMER AND MARY LOUISE RASMUSON THEATER



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of the American Indian*

# MOTHER EARTH

## CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SYMPOSIUM

SAT, JUNE 27  
2009



Inuit are experiencing firsthand the adverse effects of global environmental changes. We are on the front line of globalization. But we are not powerless victims. We are determined to remain connected to the land, and sufficiently resilient to adapt to changing natural forces as we have for centuries.

—Patricia Cochran (Inupiat)



Knowledge gained by indigenous Amazonian farmers—masters of adaptation in a landscape of constant change—is as valuable as that produced by academics, institutions, and politicians and can point the way to strategies for dealing with climate change.

—Miguel Pinedo-Vasquez (Ribereño/Caboclo)

**NATIVE PEOPLES, SEASONED INHABITANTS OF MOTHER EARTH WITH TIME-HONORED EXPERIENCE IN SUSTAINABLE LIVING, ARE RESPONDING TO THE URGENT CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN CREATIVE WAYS.** From the Arctic to Amazonia, indigenous groups are calling on traditional knowledge and adapting new technologies to craft innovative solutions to this planetary crisis.

*Mother Earth: Confronting the Challenge of Climate Change* highlights specific initiatives by Native peoples and in Native communities to lighten our footprint on the living Earth. The symposium is a vital part of the National Museum of the American Indian's ongoing commitment to disseminate knowledge about sustainable living and advance understanding of human-made climate change.

## **SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE**

**2:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

### **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Tim Johnson (Mohawk), associate director for museum programs, National Museum of the American Indian

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Rico Newman (Piscataway/Conoy Indians)

### **INTRODUCTIONS AND FRAMING STATEMENT**

José Barreiro (Taino), assistant director for research, National Museum of the American Indian

### **THE ARCTIC: INDICATOR OF GLOBAL CHANGE**

Patricia Cochran (Inupiat), chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council

### **WINTERS COUNT IN THE NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS: CONSIDERATIONS OF THE NATURAL, INDIGENOUS, AND MODERN CLIMATE RECORD IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL WARMING**

Robert Gough, secretary, Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (Intertribal COUP)

### **NATIVE SUN: SOLAR POWER AND SOUTHWEST TRIBES**

Deborah Tewa (Hopi), renewable and tribal energy coordinator, Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office



### **CLIMATE CHANGE AND CABOCLO LIVELIHOODS IN THE AMAZON ESTUARINE FLOODPLAIN: VARIABILITY, RISK, AND ADAPTATION**

Miguel Pinedo-Vasquez (Ribereño/Caboclo), director of international programs, Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC), Columbia University

### **PANEL DISCUSSION WITH PRESENTERS**

José Barreiro, moderator



### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND REMARKS**

José Barreiro



## BIOGRAPHIES

### JOSÉ BARREIRO (TAINO)



José Barreiro serves as NMAI's assistant director for research. A scholar of American Indian policy and the contemporary Native experience, Barreiro is a pioneering figure in Native American journalism and publishing. He helped establish the American Indian Program at Cornell University, serving as associate director and editor-in-chief of Akwe:kon Press and the journal *Native Americas* throughout the 1980s and '90s. In 2000 he joined the staff of *Indian Country Today* as senior editor. He continues to serve as a member of the editorial board of *Kacike: The Journal of Caribbean Amerindian History and Anthropology*.

Barreiro's publications include *Native American Expressive Culture* (1994), a special edition of the *Akwe:kon Journal* produced for the opening of NMAI's George Gustav Heye Center in New York; the novel *The Indian Chronicles* (1993), and such scholarly books as *View from the Shore: American Indian Perspectives on the Quincentenary* (1990), *Indian Roots of American Democracy* (1992), *Chiapas: Challenging History* (1994), *Panchito: Cacique de Montaña* (2001); and, most recently, *America Is Indian Country* (2005), which he edited with Tim Johnson. A member of the Taino Nation of the Antilles, Barreiro received his Ph.D. in American Studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

### PATRICIA COCHRAN (INUPIAT)



Born and raised in Nome, Alaska, Patricia Cochran serves as Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, an international organization of Inuit dedicated to protecting and advancing Inuit rights and interests on the international level. She also serves as Chair of the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat to the Arctic Council. Cochran was formerly Executive Director of the Alaska Native Science Commission, a nonprofit organization created to bring together research and science in partnership with Alaska Native communities.

Cochran has served as Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator on numerous projects throughout the Arctic, including the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, the Traditional Knowledge and Contaminants Project, the Traditional Lifeways and Subsistence Project, and the Indigenous Knowledge Systems Research Colloquium. She was raised in a traditional way of life and spent more than twelve years apprenticing with Elders and Healers to become a traditional facilitator in indigenous communities.

Cochran previously served as Administrator of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies at the University of Alaska Anchorage; Executive Director of the Alaska Community Development Corporation; Local Government Program Director with the University of Alaska Fairbanks; and Director of Employment and Training for the North Pacific Rim Native Corporation (Chugachmiut).

### ROBERT GOUGH

Robert Gough, of Irish, French, English, German, and Leni Lenape ancestry, is an attorney with graduate degrees in sociology and cultural anthropology, specializing in cultural ecology. He has worked with American Indian tribes on cultural and natural resource issues over the past 30 years. Gough currently serves as Secretary of the Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (Intertribal COUP), an organization created to provide information on rights and resources for utility services on tribal lands with respect to regulatory authority, legislation, policy, and economic opportunity in telecommunications and energy development. He also maintains a private law practice on indigenous rights and conducts outreach activities to the Native Alaskan and American Indian communities on behalf of the federal Wind Powering America program.

Gough co-chaired the United States Global Change Research Program's "Native Peoples/Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop" held in 1998 and co-directs the NativeWind.org supporting partnerships between ICLEI-Cities for Climate Protection and COUP tribes to build sustainable reservation economies based upon renewable energy. He sits on the Western Governors' Association's Clean and Diversified Energy Advisory Committee seeking to develop 30,000 MWs of clean energy by 2015 in 18 Western states. Gough is one of the architects of the Rosebud/COUP Intertribal Wind Energy Plan, which includes a federal environmental justice demonstration project for intertribal wind development arrayed along the federal hydropower grid, and of the SAFE Homes (Sustainable, Affordable and Efficient) straw bale construction initiative that recently received the inaugural World Clean Energy Award.





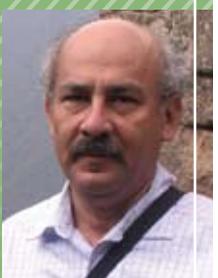
### TIM JOHNSON (MOHAWK)

As associate director for museum programs at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, Tim Johnson manages a department that encompasses all aspects of the visitor experience, from exhibitions, education, publications, symposia, and lectures, to cultural and performing arts programs. Previously, Johnson served as executive editor of *Indian Country Today*, where, over the course of six years, he led the remaking of the publication into the nation’s leading American Indian newspaper, noted for its original reporting, analysis, and commentary on matters of American Indian policy and its steadfast defense of American Indian economic interests.



### RICO NEWMAN (PISCATAWAY/CONOY INDIANS)

Rico Newman is an Elder’s Council member of the Choptico Band of Piscataway/Conoy Indians, located in southern Maryland. He has been appointed by the Tribal Band Chairpersons to represent the tribe on major issues to the public and the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. Newman is also active in the tribe’s language revitalization program and in teaching Piscataway/Conoy traditional arts.



### MIGUEL PINEDO-VASQUEZ (RIBEREÑO/CABOCLO)

Miguel Pinedo-Vasquez is a native of the Peruvian Amazon and a leading expert on integrated conservation and resource management, particularly among smallholders. Dr. Pinedo-Vasquez is widely acknowledged as a pioneer researcher on issues related to agrobiodiversity and the impact of resource and land use systems on ecosystem function. He is the scientific coordinator of the internationally known program of People, Land Management and Environmental Change (PLEC) that focuses on smallholder resource use systems and conservation practices in tropical countries. Most recently, Dr. Pinedo-Vasquez has been working on the impact of urbanization and climate change on environments and livelihoods of rural people in Amazonia and other tropical regions.

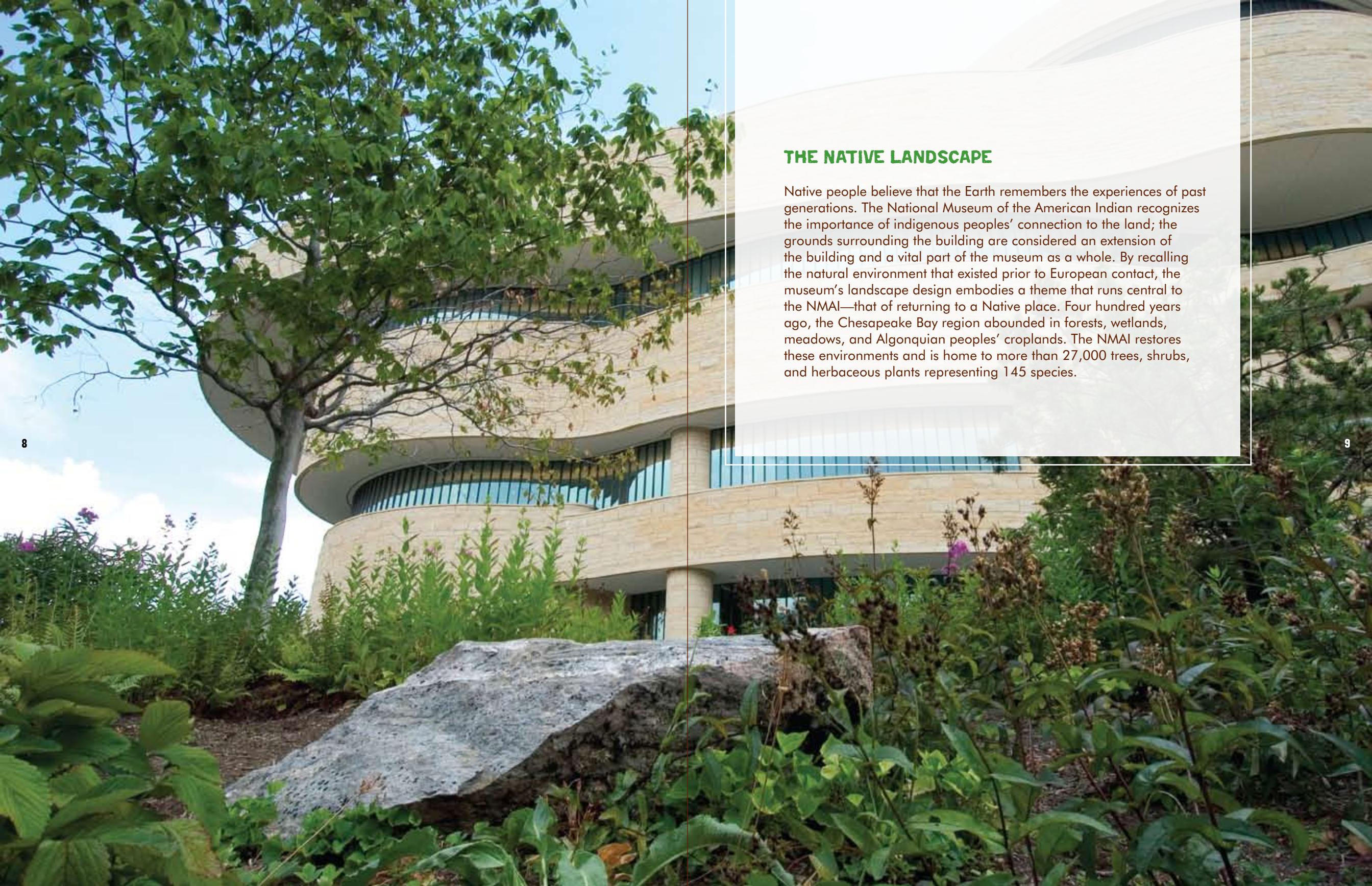
Dr. Pinedo-Vasquez is Director of International Programs at the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation. He is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Environmental Biology, as well as in the Anthropology Department, at Columbia University in New York City.

### DEBORAH TEWA (HOPI)

A Hopi tribal member from Hotevilla, Arizona, Deborah Tewa is presently the Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office’s Renewable & Tribal Energy Coordinator and serves as the state’s Tribal Energy Liaison. Prior to joining the Energy Office, Tewa worked at Sandia National Laboratories’ Tribal Energy Program in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She provided technical assistance to tribes with their renewable energy portfolio to promote employment and economic development in Indian Country. While at Sandia, Tewa co-taught women’s photovoltaic courses in conjunction with the American Solar Energy Society conferences. She also served as project manager for NativeSUN on the Hopi Reservation. NativeSUN deployed more than 300 stand-alone photovoltaic systems on the Hopi, Zuni, and Navajo reservations and rural Flagstaff, Arizona. Tewa holds a bachelor’s degree in Applied Indigenous Studies from Northern Arizona University.

Tewa’s current role is providing education and outreach to Arizona state and tribal communities on energy efficiency and renewable energy.





## THE NATIVE LANDSCAPE

Native people believe that the Earth remembers the experiences of past generations. The National Museum of the American Indian recognizes the importance of indigenous peoples' connection to the land; the grounds surrounding the building are considered an extension of the building and a vital part of the museum as a whole. By recalling the natural environment that existed prior to European contact, the museum's landscape design embodies a theme that runs central to the NMAI—that of returning to a Native place. Four hundred years ago, the Chesapeake Bay region abounded in forests, wetlands, meadows, and Algonquian peoples' croplands. The NMAI restores these environments and is home to more than 27,000 trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants representing 145 species.

## AFTER THE SYMPOSIUM

**COME CELEBRATE MOTHER EARTH  
WITH ANDES MANTA!  
INDIAN SUMMER SHOWCASE CONCERT  
5:00 P.M., WELCOME PLAZA**



Natives of the Ecuadorian Andes, the four Lopez brothers, Fernando, Luis, Bolivar, and Jorge, play traditional music that has been preserved and perpetuated for generations beyond count. Andes Manta, which dazzles audiences with more than 35 instruments, provides a rare opportunity for cultural understanding between the peoples of their homeland and North America. Their music blends indigenous elements (and instruments) with colonial and post-colonial influences. Andes Manta derives its repertoire from the songs and dance music of festivals, celebrations of birth, a new house, planting, harvesting, and other important religious and secular occasions that are still observed in Ecuador.

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

### THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Established in 1989, through an Act of Congress, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is an institution of living cultures dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding of the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of the Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere. The museum includes the National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall; the George Gustav Heye Center, a permanent museum in lower Manhattan; and the Cultural Resources Center, a research and collections facility in Suitland, Maryland.

Located on the National Mall at 4th Street and Independence Avenue SW, between the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol Building, NMAI is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The museum is closed on December 25.

To become a Member of the National Museum of the American Indian, please visit [www.AmericanIndian.si.edu/give](http://www.AmericanIndian.si.edu/give) or call 1-800-242-NMAI (6624).

Visit NMAI's website at [www.AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://www.AmericanIndian.si.edu)

### PHOTO CREDITS

INSIDE FRONT COVER: melting glacier UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe, photo of tropical flowers by Ketzell Levine; 2: photo of out of season flooding in Central Alaska 2007 by Natalie Novik, photo of installation of solar panels on Hopi Reservation courtesy Deborah Tewa; 3: photo of construction of Alex Little Soldier Wind Turbine on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota courtesy Robert Gough; photo of young man in Foz de Mazagão, Brazil by Ketzell Levine; 7: photo of Cowichan Coast Salish spindle whorl with design suggesting a school of salmon by Katherine Fogden/NMAI; pp. 8-9: photo of NMAI museum in Washington, DC, by Katherine Fogden/NMAI; back cover: photo of Andes Manta by Annie Tiberio Cameron Photography.



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