Santa Cruz Artist Creates Prints of Ohlone Indian Life

Santa Cruz artist Eric Mathes, through the California Archaeological Illustration Associates, has created a limited edition suite of six prints which give a glimpse of the Ohlone Indian way of life.

The hand-colored prints in the portfolio include:

Aulin Tak — daybreak at the Ohlone village, Aulin Tak, at the mouth of the San Lorenzo River.

The Artisan's Craft — Arrow points, pipes, knives, mortar and pestle, paints, beads and baskets, were all designed and handcrafted examples of the Indian's sensitive touch.

An Ohlone Worksite — a worksite above's Santa Cruz' Westlake area provided a full view for artisans working stone, feather, wood, shell, bone and grasses.

An Early Morning Bath — Quoting from Malcolm Margolin's THE OHLONE WAY, "Life on the whole was peaceful and predictable. Every morning the people of the village awoke and bathed in the creek. The men then drifted off for a day of hunting and fishing...the women gathered shellfish, seeds and other plant foods, they made baskets and socialized among themselves."

Chalu Mu Village — Early European exploroers described this Ohlone village which was centered where Pogonip Creek meets the San Lorenzo River. Temescals (sweat houses) where many of the tribe's men spent much of their time, were alongside river pools.

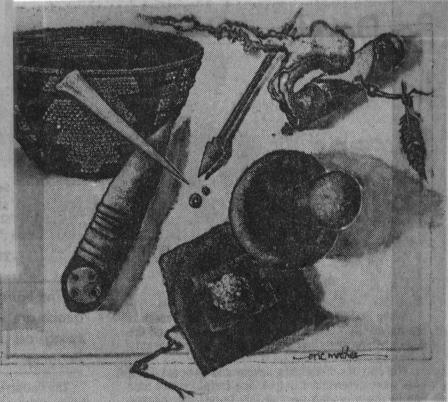
The Shaman — The Shamans channeled the teachings of their forefathers' skills and experiences. Using herbal medicnes they treated many illnesses and disorders, devoting their lives to studying, teaching and practicing their special skills.

In addition to the 100 hand-colored portfolios, also offered is an edition of 60 signed sepia-colored portfolios.

Mathes is a nationally known artist, illustrater, and filmmaker whose work can be found in numerous publications, galleries and museums. He says his drawings are based on authenticated study and research.

The Ohlone Portfolios are available from CAIA director Eric Mathes, 247 Cardiff Place, Santa Cruz, telephone 426-2685.

Recently Mathes received a television grant to begin a series of shows that focus on the works and lives of 10 visual artists who represent the spectrum of today's contemporary visual arts.



THE ARTISAN'S CRAFT

The Ohlone revered the abilities of artists and artisans. Arrow points, pipes, knives, mortar and pestle, paints, beads, baskets and clothing all were handcrafted examples of the Indian's sensitive touch.

REFERENCE





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