

Collection Provenance Statement

In memory of Martin C. Forrester

Every piece in this gallery was chosen by one person: Martin C. Forrester. A career American diplomat, his postings took him through South America, Europe, and Scandinavia — and it was there, living inside so many different worlds, that his love of art took root. Not just the objects, but the people who made them.

When Martin retired from the State Department, he didn't slow down. He went into business for himself, chasing that same love of craft to Africa, where he traveled to meet the wood and stone carvers directly — buying limited-edition pieces from the artists themselves and shipping them home to sell.

Martin passed away in 2024, before he could finish what he started. This gallery is that unfinished work, carried forward. Some of these pieces date back to the 1960s, and not every one comes with formal paperwork — a collection built this way, one relationship and one trip at a time, rarely does. What we can tell you is where they came from: bought in person, from the artist, by a man who spent his life chasing exactly this kind of craftsmanship around the world.

How pieces are described and priced

Individual records — exact artist names, precise year, exact origin village — were not kept for most pieces in this collection. Where we can't verify a specific attribution, the region and material shown on a listing are a general, good-faith description based on the piece itself, not a certified attribution. Prices are banded to comparable current market listings for that type, material, and region of piece — not the result of an individual appraisal.

One piece in the collection is an exception: an original, signed oil painting by a named artist. That piece has its own, separate Certificate of Authenticity, available on its listing.

Shipping & insurance

Shipments are insured for their full value in transit. See the gallery's Shipping & Insurance page for details.

This statement describes the collection's origin and the gallery's approach to describing and pricing it honestly. It is not an appraisal, and it does not certify the authenticity, attribution, age, or value of any individual piece except where a piece-specific Certificate of Authenticity says otherwise.