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Ebay Auction of Native American Art to Benefit Japanese Disaster Relief

March 30, 2011 - Prominent Native American artists have joined forces in an unprecedented Native American art auction with all the proceeds going to disaster relief for Japan. The first of a series of eBay auctions is slated to begin April 5th, 2011.

Raymond C. Yazzie, award-winning Navajo jewelry artist, has many friends and customers in Japan. As the disaster unfolded before his eyes on television and the Internet, Raymond was so touched that he reached out to other well-known Native artists in the southwest area and a charitable movement took root.

Created by artists Raymond C. Yazzie, Darryl Dean Begay and Lyndon Tsosie, "Native American Artists for Japan," was quickly established to coordinate fellow artists in a monetary relief fund for victims and survivors of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan. They have organized to auction hand-made Native American art. All monies will be donated to the Red Cross in support of Japan relief efforts.

Within 24 hours, of announcing their idea on Facebook, commitments of amazing pieces of art flowed in from across New Mexico, Arizona and beyond. Over 100 artists including Tony Abeyta, Michael Roanhorse and Darryl Dean Begay pledged some of their best pieces for a benefit auction on eBay. Within a day they also had pledges from Verma Nequatewa (Sonwai), Perry Shorty, McKee Platero and Lyndon Tsosie.

Raymond shared, "Our mission is to unite inspire fellow Native Artists to give back to our brothers and sisters abroad. Because Japan has been a big supporter of Native American arts, providing income to artists and their families, it is out of our hearts as artists to raise funds for water, food and basic necessities."

Lyndon Tsosie, also touched by the overwhelming support of his fellow artists, added, "Native American Artists for Japan has turned into a gigantic bubble of love and help to reach out to those affected by this

disaster.”

Darryl Dean Begay is proud of the fact that so many Native American artists, from across the country, are donating their art for this great cause.

The artists have established a website, www.nativeamericanartistsforjapan.com where they will post links to an ongoing eBay auction and information on their fund-raising efforts. The first in a series of auctions will be held on eBay starting on April 5, 2011 and will include as many 15 pieces of art. This auction will last for 7 days, then NAAJ will post more art the following week.

SWAIA (Southwestern Association for Indian Arts) has joined forces with the artists to handle monetary donations. Checks can be made out to: SWAIA c/o Native American Artists for Japan. Send to: to SWAIA c/o of Native American Artists for Japan, P.O.Box 969, Santa Fe NM 87504-0969.

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NATIVE AMERICAN ARTISTS FOR JAPAN

Joining as a community
of artists and friends
to support those in need

**eBay Auction:
April 5, 2011**

www.nativeamericanartistsforjapan.com