



NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITIONS:

HOPI KATSINAS

Exhibit Dates: April 17 – Sept. 12, 2004 • Exhibit Place: REDLANDS
media contacts: Jennifer Reynolds, media specialist • (909) 798-5048
or Adella Schroth, curator of anthropology, (909) 307-2669 ext. 266

KATSINA TYPES

***Mongwi Katsinum* (Chief Katsinas)**

The word “chief” refers to the importance of the Katsina as a wise and powerful leader, not to a political position. Chief Katsinas have the knowledge and wisdom to show the Hopi how to deal with the normal world and how to interact with the supernatural world.

***Tuwalakum* (Guard Katsinas)**

Individual guard (or warrior) Katsinas serve as policemen to keep people from getting too close to a ceremony. As a group, they function as warriors and surround the more sacred Katsinas.

***Mahk Katsinum* (Hunter Katsinas)**

Hunter Katsinas are providers who hunt game.

***Chuchkut* (Clowns)**

Clowns amuse the audience between acts of the serious Katsinas. They teach social rules by performing skits about improper behavior. Some *Chuchkut* function as priests, doctors, or curers.

***Sosoyok't* (Ogre Katsinas)**

These Katsinas come to villages on the First and Second Mesas. Through their frightening actions, children learn that they must contribute to the food supply, that they depend on the good will of their relatives, and that the men of the village will protect the people who live there.

***Wawash Katsinum* (Runner Katsinas)**

The racing or runner Katsinas challenge young men to race during the spring dances. The *Wawash* sends water down the arroyos to repay the young men for their cooperation.

***Momoyam* (Katsina Women)**

All female Katsinas are portrayed by men except for the *Pachavuin Mana*. Because the Hopi society is matrilineal, there is no shame in assuming a woman's role.

***Popkot* (Animal Katsinas)**

Animal Katsinas act as advisors, doctors, and assistants to the Hopi, helping them overcome sickness and disease.

CONTINUES

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HOPI KATSINAS (CONT.)

Chiro Katsinum (Bird Katsinas)

Birds have a role in many important ceremonies. Their feathers decorate altars, Katsinas, deities, and men. Birds offer advice and council and are a strong link with the mythical underworld.

Sosoyohim Katsinum (Insect And Reptile Katsinas)

The Hopi do not neglect anything in their environment. Insect and reptile Katsinas occupy important positions, each with a power or attribute.

Tusak Katsinum (Plant Katsinas)

Plants are the most important Katsinas because they represent the harvest. Because water and the harvest are very important in a desert environment, the plant Katsinas bring their own water.

Sosoyohim Katsinum (Mixed Katsinas)

These Katsinas bring moisture. They range from snow to rain, and from clouds to thunder. Almost every dance includes some Katsinas whose function is to bring moisture for the crops. •••