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www.nativepeoples.com

Ride On: The Trail of Painted Ponies

The **Trail of Painted Ponies** continues to ride off into the ever-setting sun with its newest edition of miniature painted ponies dedicated to raising income for various philanthropic causes. First up in the series are two ponies dedicated to raising income for the **Gary Avey Educational Fund** at the Heard Museum in Phoenix. Avey founded *Native Peoples* magazine in 1987 originally as a Heard Museum publication.

Artist **Frank Salcido** (Navajo) has created the “Native Peoples Pony” and **Andersen Kee** (Navajo) “The Magician.”

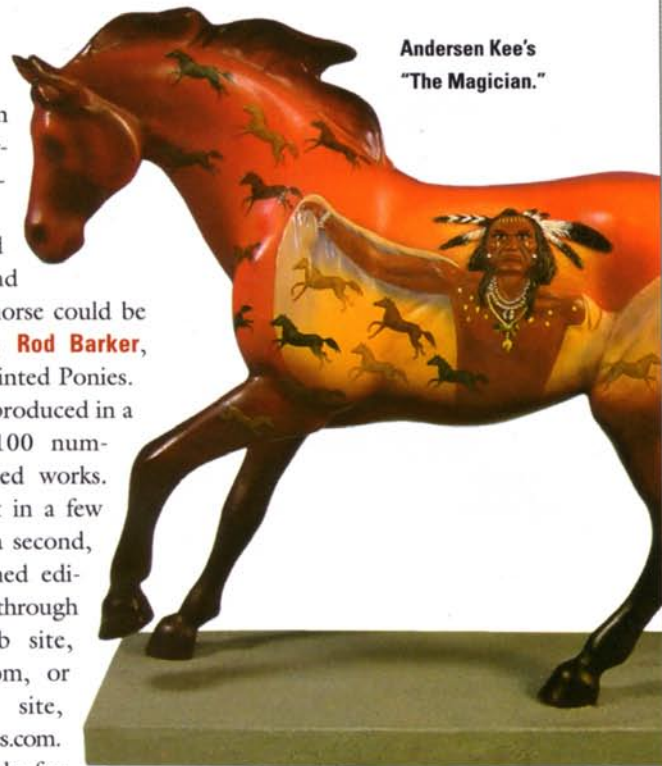
“As an artist, I have always had this vision of different cultures around the world coming together sharing their beliefs and customs, blending as one on this small planet we call Mother Earth,” says Salcido, who now lives in Portland, Oregon but was born to the Standing House Clan of the Navajo Nation. With the sides of his pony’s face adorned by Aztec and Mayan warriors, an Australian Aborigine and an African Masai woman, he has fulfilled his artistic mission.

In certain Plains Indian tribes there was a special tribal figure who spoke to and for horses. As rendered by Taos artist Andersen Kee, who was born on the Navajo Reservation and whose mother was a weaver and father a silversmith, the “Magician” is portrayed releasing a herd

of multicolored spirit ponies from the inside of his elkskin robe, and then gathering them on the backside.

“I never realized how versatile and accommodating the horse could be as a canvas,” notes **Rod Barker**, director of Trail of Painted Ponies.

Both ponies were produced in a limited edition of 100 numbered and hand-signed works. This edition sold out in a few hours, but works in a second, unlimited and unsigned edition can be purchased through the magazine’s Web site, www.nativepeoples.com, or the project’s Web site, www.trailofpaintedponies.com. “Magician” is available for \$31.99 and “Native Peoples Pony” for \$23.99.



Andersen Kee's
“The Magician.”

Walking Around the Great Lakes



Photographing the annual **Mother Earth Water Walk** through northern Michigan last spring was more than another typical volunteer project for professional photographer **Scott Ridgeway**. “It was a life-changing experience for me, even after photographing American Indian powwows,

tribal ceremonies and individuals for more than five years across the United States. I began as an ‘outsider’ from California, but I soon felt a welcome part of a rare event—perhaps because of my roomy four-door pickup and supply of snacks,” he jokes.

The Michigan trek was one leg of a multi-year project to walk around all of the Great Lakes to focus international attention on dangers posed by industrial and agricultural toxins in these immense water bodies. Last summer walkers traipsed 800 miles

around Lake Huron. A month-long trek around Lake Ontario is expected to begin in April, beginning and ending at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

“Most unforgettable was getting to know the five dedicated Ojibwe women—Josephine Mandamin, Melvina Flamand, Violet Caibaiosai, Joanne Kejick and Joanne Tait—who founded the walk,” says Ridgeway. The walk began each day before sunrise and ended sometimes more than 50 miles later after dark. “I will never forget their unflagging enthusiasm nor the Anishinaabe prophecy that guided them: ‘If human negligence continues for another 30 years, drinking water will be worth its weight in gold.’”

Details: www.motherearthwater-walk.com

Water Walk’s goal is to focus attention on the dangers posed by industrial and agricultural toxins by walking around all the Great Lakes over a multi-year period.