



Artisans and Artists

Creativity as a Natural Resource

VISTA

360°



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We create economic opportunities for artisan groups around the world where livelihoods, communities, and craft traditions are marginal or at risk.

We blend a passion for the deep-rooted cultures and handmade traditions of the developing world with a commitment to building profitable businesses.

Environmentally sound practices are at the foundation of our methodology. We recognize that we can only bring lasting economic growth if we provide an integrated approach to product development, business skills training, market access and eco-effective processes.

We accomplish this by working together with partners in the countries where we work and in the markets we connect artisans with, leaving behind an infrastructure that continues to support the artisan community long after we complete our mentoring.



Product Development

Innovative and competitive products emerge from the collaboration between market-savvy designers and creative and inspirational artisans.

[more](#)



Market Access

The real impact of ATA's work shows in generating new sales and linking to new markets. We believe it is critical to create new products with market appeal and to ensure that our production methods are eco-effective and can sustain these new products. Our marketing objective is simple: Link artisans to new markets and ensure those links can continue growing well beyond ATA's involvement.

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Business Training

Whether we are working in a classroom setting, in the field with artisans, or in a customized training, we always focus on building the capacity of artisans to compete in the global marketplace. Our training is world renowned for providing trend forward market information to assure that our participants can sustain their competitive edge.

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Aid to Artisans makes approximately 25 small grants each year to craft based associations worldwide. These grants range from \$500 to \$1,500 and are used to help these groups purchase much needed equipment and materials to improve or increase their craft production.

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In a world of mass production, the touch of the hand has value.

— Dorey Lewis,
International Design
Consultant, Textile
Innovator

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Home Decor

Welcome to NOVICA's Home Decor homepage! Enjoy exploring unique home decor handcrafted by artisans around the world.

Discover hundreds of collectible home decor treasures that span cultures and continents, including rustic accents from Mexico, elegant Asian decorative pieces, extraordinary African decor and relaxing tropical decor.

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Featured Seller



Linda Stein has blown us away with Zosimos Botanicals, her natural mineral makeup and skincare line. It's no surprise StartupNation ranked it among the Top 10 Greenest Businesses of 2008. Looks like beauty isn't skin deep after all. [SELLERS STORY >>](#)

Featured Trust Provider



The Crafts Center at CHF serves as a catalyst for long-lasting positive change in low and moderate income communities around

the world, helping to improve their social, economic and environmental conditions. [VERIFIED STORY >>](#)

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Featured Articles



Natural Picnic Blankets That Don't Cost the Earth!



Vision and Mission



Our Vision

One day all artisans in the developing countries will earn a fair wage, be treated with dignity and respect and be able to live a life of quality.

Our Mission

Ten Thousand Villages provides vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages works with artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. This income helps pay for food, education, health care and housing. Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit program of [Mennonite Central Committee](#).

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Find a [store](#) in the U.S. where you can purchase fair trade products from Ten Thousand Villages.

Find a Festival

Find a Ten Thousand Villages [festival sale](#) near you.



Home

What We Do

Get Involved

Meet the Artisans

About Us

Our mission is to create opportunities for Tibetans in the face of a rapidly changing economic landscape, while preserving traditional culture through the creation of a truly sustainable infrastructure.



The Tibet Artisan Initiative was established in 2002 by the [Tibet Poverty Alleviation Fund](#) as a means to preserving and promoting Tibetan culture, while creating economic opportunities for disadvantaged communities in Tibet.

[Purchase directly from: US Trunk Show & Beijing Bazaar](#)

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TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN

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About us

Turquoise Mountain is investing in the regeneration of the historic commercial centre of Kabul, providing basic services, saving historic buildings and constructing a new bazaar and galleries for traditional craft businesses. It has established Afghanistan's first Higher Education Institute for Afghan Arts & Architecture gathering some of the greatest Masters in Afghanistan and training students to produce masterpieces in wood, calligraphy and ceramics.

The Institute has been used to develop new Afghan designs, promote Afghan handicrafts through national and international exhibitions and media campaigns, open new markets, restore key parts of the Kabul museum collection, renovate public spaces and build capacity in the government and universities.

Most importantly however, the Foundation uses the resources and skills of the Institute to serve Afghan communities. Its particular focus has been the area of Murad Khane in the old city but it has also worked in a fort in Kart-e-Parwan and invested in the potter's community in the village of Istailif. In each case, the Foundation has delivered services to the community, supported local businesses, trained local students, protected historic areas, attracted visitors and improved living standards.



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Takashimaya's origins date back to Japan in 1831, when the first shop to sell kimonos opened in Kyoto. By 1840 there was a demand for exports and the business grew throughout Japan. Today, Takashimaya Co. Ltd. (Takashimaya Japan) is one of the world's largest chains of department stores, operating 20 modern department stores in Japan, maintaining 525,608 square meters of floor space and posting consolidated net sales of US \$8.51 billion for fiscal year 2006. It is the nucleus of the Takashimaya Group of companies worldwide.

Takashimaya opened its original store on Fifth Avenue in 1958. Presently, Takashimaya New York, LLC operates a department store at 693 Fifth Avenue at 54th St. It is owned and controlled by Takashimaya Fifth Avenue Corp. and Takashimaya Singapore Ltd. The present store was inaugurated in 1983 to wide media attention. The design was to reveal a new retail concept - a shopping environment with the feeling of a personal home, featuring soaring ceilings, residential lighting, and artfully decorated stone floors. Our mission today is the same as the founders as we search the world for unique items to delight our global guests. Takashimaya is a store temple of uniquely curated merchandise and gifts.





















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Take it



Trace it

With most of the things you buy, you're told little or nothing about how they're made. Icebreaker is different.

We have a deep commitment to animal welfare, the welfare of the people who work with us, and the environment. And we have nothing to hide.

Your unique Baacode will let you see the living conditions of the high country sheep that produced the merino fibre in your Icebreaker garment, meet the farmers who are custodians of this astonishing landscape, and follow every step of the supply chain. We're sure you'll find the experience as inspiring as we do. Enjoy your journey back to the source.

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- › Manufacturing ethics
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