

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNEARTHED:
Pre-Columbian Ceramics, Textiles, and Jewelry**

June 18 - July 16, 2016
Opening Reception:
June 18, 2016, 7-9pm

(Chicago - May 18, 2016)

From the beginning, societies have used the earth to cultivate identity. Today we are still uncovering remnants of their artistry, a culmination of thousands of years of technical and aesthetic development. Throughout Central and South America some of the most resplendent examples of ceramics, textiles, and jewelry have granted us access to the underworkings of cultures ranging from the Olmec to the Aztec and the Chavín to the Inca. Considered treasures of the deceased, many of these objects were taken to the grave as a celebration of the elite and to be utilized in the next world.

Objects ranging from effigy figures to ceremonial rattles intricately crafted from clay and treated with post-fire pigments served as evil spirit deterrents to allow the deceased safe passage. Burial shawls, woven from alpaca and fringed with trophy heads denoting power in battle, wrapped nobles laid in fetal position ready for rebirth. Jade deities and golden mythical animals adorning the corpses of kings brought honor to the gods through the re-enacting of creation and warfare.

This exhibition showcases approximately 35 superb examples of antique ceramics, textiles, and jewelry from the cultures of Peru, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

In 2015, Stuart & Co. Gallery launched Stuart & Co. Artifacts, a dedicated offering of Pre-Columbian works hand-selected from the private collection of long-time art dealer, Bettina Schwimmer. In accordance with Stuart & Co.'s commitment to the significance of fine art in contemporary culture, Stuart & Co. Artifacts presents museum-quality ethnographic arts including sculpture, ceramics, textiles, stoneware, and jewelry.

Please join Stuart & Co. for the opening reception of *Unearthed* on Saturday, June 18th, 2016, from 7-9pm.

For more information, please contact Britney Lipton at (312) 487-1850 or via email at britney.lipton@stuartandco.com.