



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



About the Artisans

Manos Amigas - Peru

Peru, a country with over 5,000 years of recorded history, is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world, boasting 43 native languages! But despite this complicated array of cultural influences, Manos Amigas, which means "hands joined in friendship," hunts high and low to find talented artisans who make a variety of handicrafts in impoverished areas of Lima and in the Andean highlands. Think ceramics, jewelry, wind chimes, gourds, retablos, and textiles. Manos Amigas even offers tourist packages to different cities and towns to teach Peruvian culture to visitors and show off the artisans' excellent craftsmanship.

Today, the organization hosts training in Lima for all its artisans across Peru every two years, providing transportation and housing. Meanwhile, 20 per cent of profits are directed to social work efforts such as helping a feeding program for poor children by providing warm meals, school uniforms and school supplies.

Surprised Owl Gourd Ornament

This wide-eyed owl ornament is made from an etched gourd. Artisans working with Manos Amigas in Lima, Peru, carve the design, after which they accent it with red-hot pieces of burned wood. The gourd is then painted with a natural paint made from ground chalk mixed with water. Later, most of the finish is washed off, the residue giving beauty to the carved parts of the design.



Materials:
dried gourd

Travel the world with each visit to Ten Thousand Villages.

Learn how Fair Trade really makes a difference. Our goal is to provide vital, fair income to artisans by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages sells product from more than 30 countries, providing work for nearly 60,000 people around the world.

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