



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



About the Artisans

Comité Artisanal Haïtien (CAH)

Fair Trade group Comité Artisanal Haïtien (CAH) helps Haitians rebuild their lives by enabling rural craftspeople to earn a living from their skills. The economic situation in Haiti is bleak, and the need for income generation is great. For many, the money earned is not just supplemental income, but often the sole source of support for artisans and their families. Although education is technically compulsory in Haiti, only about 40 percent of children can actually afford to go to school; product sales through Ten Thousand Villages help make this schooling possible. Besides fair wages and advances on orders, artisans also receive financial assistance in case of health emergencies.

Sun And Bird Wall Art

Can you find the birds in this intricate and innovative wall hanging from Haiti? Artisans cut open 55-gallon drums, pound them flat, then mark designs on the black metal with chalk. Using a chisel, they cut through the metal to make designs. One of Haiti's most original art forms.



Special Details:

Also known as fer de coupe, Haitian metal crafting has its origins in the work of Georges Liautaud (1899-1991), a railway mechanic-turned-blacksmith who repaired tools and branding irons before parlaying his work into decorative metal sculptures in the 1950s.

More specifically, Liautaud's creation of decorative ironwork crosses for a cemetery in Croix de Bouquets – a small town outside of the capital city – caught the attention of a Haitian art collector.

Given the opportunity to work as an artist, Liautaud began to explore various themes and motifs, and gained himself a substantial following as a skilled craftsman and gifted artist.

Today, Croix de Bouquets is the centre for cut metal artwork – the sounds of pounding metal can be heard all throughout the city!

Materials:

recycled metal

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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