



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



Aquatic Plants Wall Hanging

Fish dart between waving aquatic plants in this Haitian wall hanging. Artisans cut open 55-gallon drums, pound them flat and mark designs on the black metal with chalk. Using a chisel, they cut through the metal to create this fish and plant design.



Special Details:

To create these pieces, first, artisans purchase old, 55-gallon steel oil drums and prepare them by cutting them open, stuffing them with paper, straw, and dried banana or sugar cane leaves, and lighting them on fire in order to burn off any remaining chemicals or impurities.

Once the drum has cooled down, the metal worker climbs on top and uses his weight to open it up and flatten it into a 3x6 foot sheet from which sculptures can be created. After it is flattened and hammered, artisans use chalk to transfer a hand-drawn paper design to the metal and then cut out this design with a hammer and a chisel.

To finish the product, pieces are sanded and sculpted. Some are brightly painted using vibrant hues, while others are buffed and coated with a rust inhibitor to allow the natural colour of the metal to show.

Materials:

recycled metal

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.

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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