



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Guide to *Dance of Nahikai* painting, circa 1887

National Anthropological Archives  
Museum Support Center  
4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland, Maryland 20746  
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1310  
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.2883  
naa@si.edu  
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents .....	1
Names and Subjects .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	<i>Dance of Nahikai</i> painting
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1887
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS76255
<b>Creator:</b>	Unknown (Artist)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Paintings (visual works) (oil on canvas; 23 x 15 inches)
<b>Language:</b>	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
<b>Container:</b>	Folder 76225

---

## Administrative Information

### Related Materials

The National Museum of American History holds an engraved woodblock of this image (1980.0219.1539).

### Preferred Citation

*Dance of Nahikai* painting (MS 76225), National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

---

## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of one (1) oil painting by an unidentified artist depicting a Diné (Navajo) fire dance.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

---

## Publication Note

A lithograph based on the painting by Henry Hobart Nichols was published in:

Matthews, Washington. "The Mountain Chant: A Navajo Ceremony." *Fifth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, 1883-'84*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office: 1887. p. 432, Plate XII.

---

## Local Numbers

MS 76225

NAA INV 08624000

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

Diné (Navajo)

### Cultures:

Diné (Navajo)

### Types of Materials:

Paintings

Works of art

### Places:

North America