Colors have social, spiritual, and cultural significance everywhere, and this is no exception for the Great Basin Native Americans. The way in which tribes display color combined with symbols varies between tribes; occasionally there are similarities. Yet, each piece is individually designed and crafted by the hands of the artist. From media to color, each serve a purpose and communicate different messages. These truths have not changed with time; building an understanding of these things is crucial for designers and craftsmen alike in the 21st century.

Natives not only made things functional, they also strove to go above and beyond to make items beautiful and meaningful. So by going through objects they used for ritual ceremonies as well as every day living, you find many similarities and attention to detail. When you cross reference the symbolism and color with mythology and religious beliefs, the results are astounding. There is something to be said about this because they couldn’t afford to waste resources, one of those included time. There was importance in taking the time to show your devotion to spiritual beings. The same attention was given to communicating social status with design and color. The development of symbols and motifs is very sophisticated and very deliberate. We can learn a lot about the significance of color and symbols by studying these objects.

These themes and ideals are still used in modern day designs and crafts. Not only by Native American tribes, but by other well known artists and designers.

Methods

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Conclusion

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