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Douglas Dawson Biography

Douglas Dawson has owned Douglas Dawson Gallery in Chicago since 1983. The gallery specializes in ancient and historic ethnographic art with a special focus on non-Western textiles. Dawson's interest in non-Western art began early when he inherited a small, private museum founded by his great-grandfather when he was ten years old. Dawson attended Antioch College in Ohio, where his education included study of ceramics in Japan and Guatemala. Prior to opening the gallery in Chicago, Dawson was a production potter on a political collective in northeast Iowa. In his gallery, which produces regular thematic exhibitions, Dawson consistently has sought to blur the line between modern Western and traditional tribal art and to bring a broader audience to the latter. In addition to gallery-produced exhibitions in Chicago, Dawson participates in several international art fairs. The gallery has placed art in most major American museums and is supported by a national clientele.