

Maori art to be exhibited in United States

The largest single exhibition of Maori art ever to be displayed outside of New Zealand will open at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, in September 1984.

Accompanying the exhibition of around 200 works will be a large group of kaumatua.

The exhibition sculptures in wood, stone, bone, ivory and shell which date from about 1000 AD to 1880, have been selected for the exhibition by New Zealand curators David Simmons, chief ethnologist at the Auckland Institute

and Museum and Sidney Mead, Professor of Maori Studies, Victoria University in association with Douglas Newton, chairman, Department of Primitive Art at the Metropolitan Museum.

With major funding from Mobil, the exhibition has been organised by the American Federation of Arts.

Maori Affairs Secretary, Kara Puketapu says, "For over 1,000 years the Maori people have almost without exception refused to consent to their art work being taken from New Zea-

land and displayed in public. The reasons have deep cultural significance and are related very much to the fact that classical works are considered to be 'living' treasures...."

The proposed itinerary for the exhibition is: September 10, 1984 — January 6, 1985, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. February 22 — May 28, 1985, St Louis Art Museum, St Louis. July 6 — December 1, 1985, M.H. de Young Memorial Museum of the Fine Arts, Museums of San Francisco, California.

Left to right, Mr Wilder Green, director American Federation of Arts, Mr John Detweiler senior counsel Mobil South, Inc., Mr Kara Puketapu, Secretary of Maori Affairs.

