



THE OREGON
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**Public Exhibit Opening for Arte en la Charrería July 31 at the Oregon History
Museum**

Portland, OR – July 26, 2010 - This summer, the Oregon History Museum is excited to present its newest exhibit **Arte en la Charrería: The Artisanry of the Mexican Equestrian Culture**. Over 300 stunning objects – many dating from the late 1800s – offer a unique view of the culture surrounding the charro, or Mexican cowboy and the artisans who create the costumes, silver, and iron work they wear. Although crafted to serve a utilitarian purpose, these artifacts merit consideration as art objects due to the exceptional craftsmanship of the charrería artisan, who takes pleasure in making each object with the bearer in mind.

During the 19th century, charros began to organize celebrations to showcase their skills and compete against one another. Charrería thrives today as the national sport of Mexico. The tour of Arte en la Charrería is particularly timely because 2010 marks both the Bicentennial of Mexico's independence from Spain and the 100th Anniversary of the Mexican Revolution. The articles and costumes on display are more than simple vestiges of a nation's folk tradition; they are reminders of a rich heritage that continues to this day.

In celebration of this exhibit, the Oregon History Museum has collaborated with the Mexican Consulate to present a wide range of programming throughout the run of Arte en la Charrería. On Saturday, July 31, visitors will enjoy guided tours, traditional dance, authentic charro costumes, and presentations by the exhibit curators. At noon, there will be a short presentation about the meaning of charrería for Mexico, complete with beautiful photographs by National Geographic photographer Janet Jarman. Listen to a China Poblana legend by curator Marisú Gonzalez at 2:00 p.m. View the classic charro dance called the Jarabe Tapatio, which is performed at the end of charreadas.

Arte en la Charrería: The Artisanry of the Mexican Equestrian Culture and its tour are organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC in collaboration with Luis González, Marisú González and Gabriel Cabello. The objects in the exhibition are part of a collection started in the 19th century by Gumaro González, a landowner in Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Collecting charrería artifacts remains a González family passion. Through their devotion, they

formed one of the most complete collections of charro articles, and the most important collection of charro saddles in Mexico. This spectacular exhibit will be on display at the Oregon History Museum from July 31 through October 24, 2010. In addition, a special exhibit of photography by famed Mexican cinematographer Gabriel Figueroa will be on display during the month of October. Please visit www.ohs.org for more details about this exhibit and related events.

About the Oregon Historical Society

The Society has served since 1898 as Oregon's primary research collection and museum about Oregon history. OHS has an extensive collection of historical pieces, including over 85,000 artifacts and 3 million photographs and films. It safeguards and presents Oregon's history through a museum, research library, traveling exhibits, school programs and website content.

About International Arts & Artists

International Arts and Artists in Washington, DC, is a non-profit arts service organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally, through exhibitions, programs and services to artists, arts institutions and the public. Visit www.artsandartists.org