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## *El Caballo: The Horse in Mexican Folk Art*

### Opens

March 26, 2013 at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

Mexico possesses a rich history of popular art that reaches more than 2,000 years into the past and continues today in villages, towns, and cities throughout the country. *El Caballo: The Horse in Mexican Folk Art*, opening March 26 at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, celebrates this enduring legacy through twenty-two examples, including ceramics, metalwork, paintings, paper art, and sculpture.

Each work in the exhibition focuses on the horse and related subjects, which have long attracted the attentions of Mexican folk artists. Since introduced by the Spanish, the horse has held special prominence in Mexican culture. Many of the heroes and saints of Mexico, including Zapata, a rebel leader in the Mexican Revolution, and Santiago, the Apostle St. James, are portrayed on horseback. Today, with their long history as ranchers and cowboys, Mexicans are recognized for being among the best equestrians in the world.

*El Caballo* demonstrates the diversity and vitality of modern Mexican folk art. Its artisans produce some of the world's most exciting examples of popular art, interweaving a collective tradition with individual expressions of creativity. Using whatever materials are at hand, these artists fashion an array of utilitarian, ceremonial, and decorative objects. While most of these creations are regional, even local, in concept and design, they share distinctly Mexican features that give them a sense of national identity.

In conjunction with the exhibition, FWMoA will offer a gallery talk on April 4 at 12:15pm, free with gallery admission. Additionally, there will be a lecture on April 10 at 6:30pm by Cesareo Moreno, Visual Arts Director and Chief Curator at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. The lecture is \$5 FWMoA members, \$12 for non-members. The exhibition will be on view during normal gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-6pm, Thursday 10-8pm, with admission \$7 for adults, \$5 for students, and \$12 for families. Visit [fwmoa.org](http://fwmoa.org) or call 260.422.6467 for more information.

*El Caballo* is curated by Robert Cugno and Robert Logan, directors of the Media Gallery in Garnett, Kansas. The exhibition is toured by ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance. ExhibitsUSA sends more than 20 exhibitions on tour to more than 100 small- and mid-sized communities every year. Mid-America is the oldest nonprofit regional arts organization in the United States. More information is available at [www.maaa.org](http://www.maaa.org) and [www.eusa.org](http://www.eusa.org).

**About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art:** Beginning with art classes in 1888 given by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has evolved into a center for the visual arts community in Northeast Indiana. Regularly exhibiting regional and nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts an extensive permanent collection of American Art as well as prints and drawings from artists such as Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol. The Museum is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation and interpretation of American and related art to engage broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region, and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is a funded partner of Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne.

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