

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian
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News

For Immediate Release

Attn: Arts & Entertainment Editors/Museums/Exhibits

Women's Art, Men's Fashions On Exhibit at Mitchell Museum

"Intrigue and Novelty"
Oct. 30, 2010, to Feb. 6, 2011

"Bolo Ties: Men's Fashion"
Oct. 30, 2010, to Feb. 6, 2011

Editor: Exhibit photos are available. E-mail natsilv@aol.com

Please note: These two exhibits are in addition to — and do not replace — the Mitchell's other temporary exhibits, "Carved with Care: Zuni Fetishes and Carvings" and "Keepsake: Porcupine Quillwork."

EVANSTON, Ill., Dec. 22, 2010 — Contemporary art by Native American women and men's bolo ties, those iconic Western-wear accessories, are subjects of exhibits now underway at the independent, nonprofit Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston.

Both exhibits opened October 30 and will remain on view through February 6.

"Intrigue and Novelty"

Curated by Chicago artist Debra Yepa-Pappan (Jemez Pueblo/Korean), "Intrigue and Novelty" is an exhibit of 35 works in diverse media by nine contemporary Native American women artists, many of them alumnae of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M.

The artists employ conventional and modern techniques to create personal reflections on the interplay of American Indian traditions and popular culture. In explaining the exhibit's title, Yepa-Pappan writes that Indian customs and ceremonies provide an element of intrigue — at

— more —

least for non-Native observers — and pop culture elements provide novelty.

Included are acrylic and gouache paintings, monotype and woodcut prints, archival digital prints, and mixed-media works.

In addition to Yepa-Pappan, artists represented in the exhibit are Marla Allison (Laguna Pueblo), Christine Caluya (Ojibwa/Taos Pueblo), Amber Gunn Gauthier (Ho-chunk /Menominee), Nadya Kwandibens (Ojibwe), Linda Lomahaftewa (Hopi/Choctaw), America Meredith (Cherokee), Rose B. Simpson (Santa Clara Pueblo), and Cameron Ayn Smith (Cherokee).

“Bolo Ties: Men’s Fashion”

"Bolo Ties: Men's Fashion" examines the origins and development of the bolo tie, the iconic men's "string tie" that's been a staple of Western wear since the mid-20th century and is the official state neckwear of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

Interest in bolo ties among American Indian artisans has spread from the southwestern U.S. to nearly every area of the U.S. and Canada. In addition to familiar Navajo bolo ties with silver and turquoise ornamental closures, exhibit-goers will see examples incorporating Zuni multi-stone inlay; Hopi silver overlay; Woodlands quillwork; Northwest Coast carving; Plains beading, quillwork, and metalwork; and Inuit ivory carving.

Interactive displays in the gallery teach visitors how to tell authentic Native-made bolos from fakes.

Examples of souvenir bolo ties — and predecessor neck-scarf slides — depicting iconic TV cowboys illustrate the neckwear’s early foothold in popular culture. Exhibit materials highlight how modern-day music, film, and TV personalities have embraced the bolo tie as a fashion accessory.

The exhibit, organized by the Mitchell Museum, includes bolo ties from the Mitchell's permanent collection and others on loan from private collectors.

Museum Information

Admission to all Mitchell exhibits is included with museum general admission, which is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors, students, teachers (with valid school ID), and children.

Maximum admission per family group is \$10. Admission is free for Mitchell Museum members and tribal members. Everyone is admitted free on the first Friday of every month. For information, phone (847) 475-1030. On the Net: <http://www.mitchellmuseum.org>.

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