

New Mexico Museum of Art News

Media Advisory

July 22, 2008

Pulling Strings: The Marionettes And Art Of Gustave Baumann January 30, 2009 through May 10, 2009

Santa Fe, NM—More than sixty marionettes carved by Gustave Baumann will be on view in this first-ever large scale exhibition featuring recreated stages with posed marionettes, hand-made props, and Baumann-painted backdrops. The exhibition opens January 30, 2009. A public opening on February 20, 2009, will be hosted by the Women's Board of the Museum of New Mexico with a reception between 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Donated to the Museum in 1973 by his wife Jane Baumann, the marionettes, props, and other stage material have been used in Christmas productions since 1935. Originally intended to amuse their daughter Anne in their home, the marionettes quickly became well-known in the Santa Fe community and performances were soon offered annually in St. Francis auditorium in the Museum. Although the marionettes are much loved in Santa Fe, there has never been a complete display of them in theatrical settings.

To recreate the experience of viewing the marionettes on stage, an audiotape will accompany the exhibition and give viewers the opportunity to hear actors perform sections of the scripts written by Gustave Baumann and his associates.

In addition to the staged marionettes, the exhibition will present prints and paintings by Baumann that are part of the Museum's collection of over 2,000 works by the artist. Baumann's works produced in New Mexico that relate to the theatrical performances of the marionettes will be emphasized.

Three books published previous to the opening of the exhibition will be available for purchase in the Museum bookstore to help the public in their understanding of Gustave Baumann and his legacy; *Gustave Baumann's Southwest*, by Joseph Traugott (1993, Museum of New Mexico Press), *Gustave Baumann: Nearer to Art*, by Acton, Krause and Yurtsevan (1993, Museum of New Mexico Press), and *The Hand-Carved Marionettes of Gustave Baumann: Share Their World*, by Ellen Zieselmann, (1999, Museum of Fine Arts).

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The New Mexico Museum of Art was founded in 1917 as the Art Gallery of the Museum of New Mexico. Housed in a spectacular Pueblo Revival building designed by I. H. and William M. Rapp, it was based on their New Mexico building at the Panama-California Exposition (1915). The museum's architecture inaugurated what has come to be known as "Santa Fe Style." For nearly 100 years, the Museum has celebrated the diversity of the visual arts and the legacy of New Mexico as a cultural crossroads by collecting and exhibiting work by leading artists from New Mexico and elsewhere. This tradition continues today with a wide-array of exhibitions with work from the world's leading artists. The New Mexico Museum of Art brings the art of New Mexico to the world and the art of the world to New Mexico.

The New Mexico Museum of Art is a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

Information for the Public

Location: Santa Fe's Plaza at 107 West Palace Avenue.

Information: 505-476-5072 or visit www.nmartmuseum.org

Days/Times: Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Open Free on Fridays, 5:00-8:00 P.M., with the exception of major exhibition openings.

Admission: School groups free. Children 16 and under free. New Mexico residents with ID free on Sundays. New Mexico resident Senior Citizens (age 60+) with ID free Wednesdays. Museum Foundation members free. NM Veterans with 50% or greater disability free. Students with ID \$1 discount. Single visit to one museum: \$8.00 for non-state residents, \$6.00 for New Mexico residents. Four-day pass to five museums including state-run museums in Santa Fe plus The Museum of Spanish Colonial Art \$18.00. One-day pass for two museums (Museum of International Folk Art and Museum of Indian Arts and Culture OR New Mexico Museum of Art and Palace of the Governors) \$12.00. Group rate for ten or more people: single visit \$6.00, four-day pass \$16.00.