

New Mexico Museum of Art News

For immediate release

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Tuff Stuff Four New Mexico Artists with Muscles

June 20 – September 14, 2008

Santa Fe, NM—In *Tuff Stuff*, four New Mexican artists, Dunham Aurelius, Mike Diaz, Harmony Hammond, and Jack Slentz present work that challenges notions of beauty associated with typical understandings of sensitivity, grace, and harmony.

A dominate approach to the making of art calls for the sensitive use of art materials. Paint should be applied with a fluid stroke, the surface of paper should be respected and not gouged, and wood should be worked with the grain, these are words of advice offered by artists and teachers. Derived from various traditions such as Eastern aesthetics, European craftsmanship and guilds, and 19th century art academies, such directives limit the vocabulary of art.

Some 20th century art movements have spoken out, violating these rules to produce work associated with angst, rawness, and distress. German Expressionists in the 1920s, for example, used harsh colors and bold marks to create stark political statements of opposition. In the 1980s, Julian Schnabel became famous for his neo-expressionist paintings covered with broken shards of ceramics.

The artists in *Tuff Stuff* create beauty by aggressively manipulating their art materials. Wood hacked, paper marred, paint clumped, and rubber stitched, these are the basic vocabularies used to produce evocative works that provoke us in unexpected ways.

The exhibition was curated by Tim Rodgers, Ph.D., Chief Curator at the New Mexico Museum of Art.

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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 more than 90 years, the Museum celebrates 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

Opening reception: June, 20, 2008, 5:30—7:30 p.m. FREE

Hosted by the Women's Board of the Museum of New Mexico

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

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

Days/Times: Monday 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. OPEN DAILY JUNE-AUGUST.

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.

