

Two Exhibitions Opening on February 19th in Connection to the Millicent Rogers Museum's 60th Anniversary

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For Immediate Release

This November marks the 60th anniversary of the Millicent Rogers Museum's founding, and to start the celebration, the museum is hosting two exhibitions, opening February 19th, to showcase their history and vision for the future: *Millicent as Visionary* and *The Supernaturals: Contemporary Katsinas from the Collection*.

Millicent as Visionary—There are many admirable traits that make up the fascinating persona of Millicent Rogers—model, muse, collector, designer, humanitarian, philanthropist, and VISIONARY. In collaboration with the Taos Visionaries: Art and Culture Consortium, the Millicent Rogers Museum is hosting an exhibition centered on the parallels between Rogers' life, advocacy, art collection, and the core values of the Millicent Rogers Museum. Although Rogers' did not envision a museum when she began collecting Southwestern art, her pieces form the heart of the museum, and she instilled a love and appreciation for the art of northern New Mexico in her children, Paul and Arturo Peralta-Ramos, the museum's founders. The Millicent Rogers Museums follows her vision in their support of the arts and cultures of the Southwest and their dedication to collecting and exhibiting these works as a continuation of her legacy.

Millicent Rogers (1902-1953) was the granddaughter of Henry Rogers, co-founder of the Standard Oil Company. During her lifetime, she travelled extensively throughout Europe and the Americas and her family's fortune, placement in high society, rebellious spirit, and high-profile romantic escapades made her a favorite subject in the media. Due to her fame, elegant features, and eye for fashion, she became the inspiration for several, popular haute couture designers, such as Charles James, Elsa Schiaparelli, and Mainbocher. Before her death, Rogers' donated the majority of her haute couture collection to the Brooklyn Museum, which is now housed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute.

In 1947, she traveled to Taos, NM after her failed relationship with the Hollywood actor, Clark Gable and instantly fell in love with the rich Native American and Hispanic art and culture of the

region. Rogers was an avid art collector, and began to focus her attention on the traditional arts of the Southwest. Many of the works she collected while living in Taos form the core of the Millicent Rogers Museum's collection. In addition, she began to design her own jewelry and clothing inspired by the arts and traditional dress of the indigenous communities surrounding Taos.

The exhibition will include photographs to illustrate Rogers' life story, significant works by Native American and Hispanic artists collected by Rogers, as well as clothing and personal effects that were donated by the Rogers family to the museum's permanent collection. As part of the Millicent Rogers Museum's ongoing 60th anniversary celebration, Christina Peralta-Ramos, Millicent Rogers' granddaughter, will give a gallery talk on February 20th at 1 p.m. Peralta-Ramos' talk will focus on her connection to her grandmother and the history of the museum. This event is offered at no additional cost to the public.

The Supernaturals: Contemporary Katsinas from the Collection—Katsinas have been a prominent part of the religion and daily life of the Hopi since prehistoric times. The Katsina religion is part of an annual ceremonial cycle associated with the agricultural calendar that involves supernatural and ancestral spirit beings oftentimes associated with benevolent elements from the natural world. These spirit beings are necessary to maintain the harmony of the universe and are represented at Hopi by masked dancers who personate the beings during ceremonial dances at various times throughout the year. They are also given a more permanent form of representation as intricately carved and painted wooden figures.

The Katsinas in the exhibition are not ceremonial, but are carved by master craftsmen, such as Alvin Navasie, Lowell Talashom, and Stetson Honyumptewa, who earn a living from their art. These master craftsmen have created images which have allowed outsiders to admire and take part in the world of the Katsina in a respectful and beneficial way. All of the Katsina in this exhibition are from the museum's permanent collection and are intended to display the Millicent Rogers Museum's advocacy for sharing the arts and cultures of the Southwest. In addition, the museum strives to demonstrate that both Native American and Hispanic traditional art forms are always evolving and reflective of contemporary society.

The Millicent Rogers Museum is open from 10-5 (MST) Tuesday through Sunday from November to March, and they are open every day from April to October. In line with the museum's mission to support the local community, admission is always complimentary to Taos County residents. Visit www.millicentrogers.com or call (575) 758-2462 for more information about the museum, holiday closures, and the exhibits.



Millicent Rogers, c. 1947



Left Hand Katsina, Stetson Honyumtewa, c. 2002