

# **Millicent Rogers Museum Highlights a Variety of Northern New Mexico Traditions in *Storytellers: Teaching Heritage through Song and Story*, opening March 18th, 2016**

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## **For Immediate Release**

This year, the Millicent Rogers Museum celebrates their 60th anniversary celebration, and is taking this opportunity to showcase the finest pieces in their collection by developing a robust calendar of events and exhibitions. The majority of the museum's collection is representative of the diverse Indigenous and Hispanic cultures of the Southwest with particular strengths in the traditional arts of northern New Mexico. *Storytellers: Teaching Heritage through Song and Story*, on exhibit from March 18-July 17, 2016, focuses on the multi-faceted narratives that are conveyed across cultures and through a variety of media. This exhibition will be complemented by multiple events directly related to the artworks on display.

*Storytellers: Teaching Heritage through Song and Story*—In the Southwest, stories are not merely told for enjoyment, but can be parables told for education or deeply spiritual accounts that tell the history of a culture or tradition. For communities who do not have a written history, storytelling keeps the heroes and heroines, history, and traditions alive for generations to come. Storytelling is also a way to connect with the elders of the community, family, and one's own cultural identity. In northern New Mexico, storytelling takes on many forms, such as written and verbal narratives, visual imagery represented in paintings, weavings, and pottery, and epic poems recited or performed in song and dance. *Storytellers* focuses on these methods by pairing readings, music, art demonstrations, and dancing with the ceramics, paintings, and textiles on display.

The Millicent Rogers Museum is committed to building and cultivating a strong relationship with the local community, and this exhibit strives to honor and respect the vibrant storytelling traditions of the region. Ceramic artists from Cochiti, Zuni, Taos, Santa Clara, and Jemez Pueblo, such as Helen Cordero, Anderson Peynetsa, Stephanie Naranjo, and Clifford Kim Fragua, will be featured in this exhibition. In addition, paintings by Ben Quintana, Max Trujillo, Narciso Platero Abeyta, Gerald Nailor, Pablita Velarde, Albert "Looking Elk" Martinez, and Quincy Tahoma will highlight the variety of visual forms of storytelling. The exhibition will be

accompanied by bilingual children's storytelling events at the museum on March 19th, April 9th, and May 14th, which will include books by Jonathan Warm Day Coming, Loyd Tireman, Rudolf Anaya, and Pauline Ts'o. There will be an artist's demonstration by Dawning Pollen Shorty on April 2nd as well as a community music day featuring the traditional music and dancing of northern New Mexico on April 16th. More events will be announced at a later date.

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](http://www.millicentrogers.com) or call (575) 758-2462 for more information about the museum, events, holiday closures, and the exhibit.



L. Anderson Peyvetsa, *Owl with Two Babies*, Zuni, 1982

R. Helen Cordero, *Grandfather Storyteller with Thirteen Babies*, Cochiti, 1970

Image courtesy of the Millicent Rogers Museum



*Matachines, 1991*

Image courtesy of the Millicent Rogers Museum

Gerald Nailor,