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Weekend Events Accompany Exhibition Opening at FJJMA

NORMAN, OKLA. - Dance presentations, guest lectures, a film series and more are in store this weekend as the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art premieres *Libertad de Expresión: the Art Museum of the Americas and Cold War Politics*, an exhibition of Latin American artwork from the 1940s to the 1990s.

The new exhibition, which opens to the public Saturday, Oct. 5, on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus, will be preceded by a symposium from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4. The symposium will explore the role that freedom of expression has played in Latin American and Caribbean culture, journalism, and politics from post-World War II to the present. The symposium is co-sponsored by the FJJMA and the OU College of International and Area Studies. A private opening reception for Museum Association members will follow the symposium later that evening.

Guest symposium presenters include Claire Fox, associate professor at the University of Iowa; Patrick Frank, author; Monica Rankin, associate professor at the University of Texas at Dallas; and Alan McPherson, OU professor of international and area studies.

Due to limited seating, reservations are required to attend the public symposium and lunch by emailing the FJJMA at tdenton@ou.edu to register. A full symposium program is available on the museum’s website at www.ou.edu/fjjma.

On Sunday, the public is invited to a community day celebrating Latin American
culture at the museum. Starting at 1:30 p.m., Alegría Real will perform a live concert of Latin American folklore music traditions. At 2:30 p.m., visitors will be led through a walking tour of Libertad de Expresión delivered in Spanish, followed by a dance performance by Ballet Flamenco Español and Los Niños de España y México at 3 p.m. A feature-length film mini-series begins at 4 p.m. with The Violin, a 2005 film directed by Mexican filmmaker Francisco Vargas.

Co-presented by the Oklahoma City Museum of Art and the FJJMA, the spotlight on Latin American cinema continues at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the OU art museum with Clandestine Childhood (2011), directed by Argentina filmmaker Benjamín Ávila. On Wednesday, the museum presents The Colors of the Mountain, a 2010 film by Colombian filmmaker Carlos César Arbeláez. All films are presented in Spanish with English subtitles.

Admission is complimentary and each event is open to the public.

During the Cold War, the Organization of American States, formerly the Pan American Union, actively promoted artists from Latin America and the Caribbean that demonstrated affiliation with influential modernist styles such as Constructivism, Surrealism, Art Informel and Abstract Expressionism. José Gómez Sicre, the visual arts specialist of the OAS, exhibited artists sympathetic to international trends in contemporary art, with the intention of demonstrating the cosmopolitanism of Latin artists and emphasizing freedom of expression in the American republics.

Libertad de Expresión examines how both the OAS and its cultural institution, the Art Museum of the Americas, advanced Latin American art and democratic values during the Cold War. The exhibition features more than 60 artists, including Joaquín Torres García, Roberto Matta and Jesús Rafael Soto, and is on display at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art through Jan. 5, 2014. This exhibition is made possible, in part, by the Norman Arts Council Grant Program.

“Under the direction of José Gómez Sicre, the AMA used art as a form of cultural diplomacy with the goal of furthering understanding and cooperation between the Americas,” said Mark White, the Eugene B. Adkins and Chief Curator and interim director at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. “In the process, it championed the international aspirations of Latin American art and culture.”

More information about the exhibition and programs is available on the museum’s website at www.ou.edu/fjjma.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located in the OU Arts District on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the OU Norman campus. Admission to the museum is complimentary to all visitors, thanks to the
generosity of the OU Office of the President and the OU Athletics Department. The museum is closed on Mondays. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938 or visiting www.ou.edu/fjjma.

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**IMAGE CREDIT**

Multiple complimentary events and programs are scheduled in conjunction with a new exhibition of Latin American art from the Cold War at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art this weekend. *Libertad de Expresión: the Art Museum of the Americas and Cold War Politics* opens Saturday, Oct. 5. Events are being offered to the public starting Friday, Oct. 4.

Gyula Kosice (Argentina, b. 1924)
* Aerolito Madí, c. 1988
Plexiglas and light, 17 ¾ x 17 ¾ x 8 ½ in. (45.1 x 45.1 x 21.6 cm.)
OAS/Art Museum of the Americas Collection.
Gift of Guyla Kosice, 1992