



## El Paso Museum of Art to Open Newly Renovated Second Floor Gallery Space

**EL PASO, Texas** – After extensive renovations, the El Paso Museum of Art (EPMA) has finished its *Refresh* project and will celebrate the grand opening of the second-floor gallery space on Thursday, September 26, with two new exhibitions; *Leo Villareal: Early Light* and *El Paso Museum of Art: 60 Years of Collecting*.

The community is invited to see the newly renovated space devoted to the museum's permanent collections and special exhibitions. Renovations include a new roof, new paint, new wood flooring, a reimagined floor plan, revised interpretation, and a fresh presentation.

The *Refresh* project comes a year after the museum completed the renovation of its renowned Kress Collection of European Art Galleries. It is the largest renovation project undertaken by the museum since it moved into its downtown location 20 years ago. Together, the two renovation projects mark EPMA's efforts to ensure the Museum remains a relevant, compelling institution.

"Museums must always be evolving alongside the communities they represent and serve," said EPMA Interim Director Dr. Vladimir von Tsurikov. "With *Refresh*, EPMA is ensuring it remains an active, powerful resource for those who live and visit here."

With *Refresh*, the second floor now features renovated galleries devoted to Latin American Art from the Spanish Colonial Period, Contemporary Art, Early West Texas Art, American Paintings and Sculptures, Works on Paper, and Mexican Retablos. Dynamically structured, *Refresh* enables more art to be seen and improved rotation of artworks. Longtime favorites will be displayed alongside recent acquisitions and special loans in the Tom Lea Gallery, Dorrance and Olga Roderick Gallery, and Richard and Frances Mithoff Gallery.

*Refresh* is supported by the de Wetter Charitable Family Fund, Robert and Sara Shiloff, The Summerlee Foundation, the EPMA Foundation, City of El Paso, and Museums and Cultural Affairs Department.

### About the New Exhibitions

*Leo Villareal: Early Light* - first hometown exhibition for the internationally-known El Paso artist. Known for his work with large-scale LED light installations, two large-scale sculptural artworks, characteristic of Villareal's early practice, will be on display.

Support for this exhibition provided by El Paso Museum of Art Foundation and El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department.

*El Paso Museum of Art: 60 Years of Collecting* - a retrospective of the museum's history and collection. It invites audiences to reflect on paintings, sculptures, prints, and drawings acquired by the museum from families and individuals in the region over a period of more than six decades.

Support for this exhibition is provided by Shari and Stuart R. Schwartz.

Additional support provided by WestStar, Texas Commission on the Arts, El Paso Museum of Art Foundation and El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department.

The El Paso Museum of Art is free and open to the public Tuesday through Sunday.

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