



Fine Arts Center  
COLORADO SPRINGS

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## **CAREER RETROSPECTIVE**

### **Exhibition by Colorado artist Emilio Lobato opens in March**

**COLORADO SPRINGS** (Feb. 8, 2011) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center will present ***Emilio Lobato: Mi Linda Soledad (My Beautiful Solitude)***, a career retrospective of one of Colorado's most prominent contemporary artists, from March 5 – May 15 with an Opening Celebration on March 4.

***Emilio Lobato: Mi Linda Soledad (My Beautiful Solitude)***

March 5 – May 15, 2011

Admission: FREE for FAC Members; \$10 for non-members

**Opening Celebration: Friday, March 4**

Admission: \$5 for FAC Members; \$10 for non-members

This exhibition will feature over 50 works by Lobato, an artist who has lived and worked his entire life in Colorado. Lobato was born in 1959 in the small town of San Pablo in the San Luis Valley; his agrarian family has lived in the Southwest for sixteen generations. He's frequently said that the isolation of his childhood has been a continuing source of artistic inspiration.

He received his formal training at Colorado College, where he studied with the late Mary Chenoweth. This exhibition will trace his artistic development and his influences: world cultures, including elements of his Hispanic heritage, the San Luis Valley landscape, Native textiles, text from old books, Asian art and aesthetics, and the Spanish language.

"The Lobato exhibition reflects two long standing interests of the Fine Arts Center—a desire to be supportive of people making art in this region and a commitment to keeping contemporary art part of our annual programming," said Sam Gappmayer, FAC President and CEO.

A visual trajectory of his artistic evolution will be represented in stages, which will include, in chronological order: his initial stage in an Abstract Expressionist style, discovery and development of collage, Figurative

series, Organic series, Refined Abstraction, Cuba series, Minimal series, Black Circle series, Weaving series and printmaking.

*“Mi Linda Soledad*, a title selected by the artist, is an insightful title that alludes to Lobato’s exploration of the themes of solitude and isolation—subjects that have been central to his art from his earliest works to today,” said Tariana Navas-Nieves, the FAC’s Curator of Hispanic and Native American Art.

“I met Emilio Lobato in 1995 and still remember walking into his studio and being immediately captivated. He talked about feeling the most at ease in the solitude of his studio. He shared how making art was cathartic—part artistic journey, part emotional reflection—and how he searched for serenity and contentment through his creative process.

“Today, I feel Emilio understands and has made peace with the sense of isolation that haunted him in the past. He has evolved artistically and personally, and recognizes that constructing a peaceful solitude is an ongoing process.”

## **May 1 Presentation**

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Lobato will give a presentation on Sunday, May 1, at 2 p.m. in the FAC Music Room. He will discuss early collages from his formative years, which are very unlike the work he is producing today, alongside the intrinsic weaving-inspired mixed media works of today. Lobato will discuss the influences of his work, such as the landscape where he grew up (the San Luis Valley) of southern Colorado, his rural upbringing and subsequent development as an artist in an urban setting. Of particular interest is his study and appreciation of Asian aesthetics and its relationship to life in a desert environment.

*Emilio Lobato: Mi Linda Soledad* is sponsored by El Pomar Foundation, the *Colorado Springs Independent* and WESTAF, the Western States Arts Federation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

With support from WESTAF and the National Endowment for the Arts, this exhibition will travel to the Sedona Center for the Arts in Arizona, the Schneider Museum of Art in Ashland, Ore., and the Montana Museum of Art and Culture in Missoula.

## **Fine Arts Center**

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Established in 1936, the Fine Arts Center is home to world-class art galleries, Broadway-worthy live theatre, and an art school for all ages. Built on the foundation of the prestigious Broadmoor Art Academy, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado’s arts and cultural heritage. One of the first 16 institutions accredited by the American Association of Museums in 1971, the FAC offers the best in the world of visual arts via its permanent collection and travelling exhibitions, performing arts through the FAC Theatre Company, and arts education with the Bemis School of Art. The Fine Arts Center’s building is considered an architectural landmark in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register for Historical Places. In 2007, the FAC unveiled a \$28.6 million renovation and expansion.

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