



100 Horses to Appear at Tamástslikt Cultural Institute

"100 Horses: An Equine History in Beadwork" opens at Tamástslikt Cultural Institute on Friday, September 1, 10am-5pm. Opening day is free.

Columbia River Plateau beadwork has historically been overlooked and underappreciated. The three Columbia River beadwork traditions - geometric, floral, and pictorial- are often not recognized as originating from the Plateau tribes. The assumptions are that the decorative embroidery of diverse interlopers was observed and adapted to create the foundations of Plateau design programs. The beads themselves have a colorful history. Glass beads were first traded in the Pacific Northwest after the 1770s and for the next half century most of the glass beads were acquired through trading with the Hudson's Bay Company and other fur trading enterprises whose supplies came from Chinese and European sources.

The Plateau tribes of Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla had a history with horses that is equally important. The bunch grass covered hills of Columbia Basin was the home of the Cayuse and Appaloosa, as well as Pintos, Paints, and Mustang horses. The Cayuse Tribe was known for their large horse herds that grazed in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. Prestige and wealth was partially reflected by the number of horses that a person owned. Tribal elders recall that in those days the tribes had thousands and thousands of horses and that they used to graze horses all through the Umatilla Basin, across the Columbia River on the Horse Heaven Hills all the way to Hanford to the north, on the east side of the Blue Mountains from the Grande Ronde country all the way to Huntington, to the John Day River country in the South and all the way to the Cascades in the west. The horse expanded Shahaptian and Cayuse culture, improved mobility and brought the Cayuse, Walla Walla, and Umatilla into contact with other Indian cultures throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Horses increased the Tribes mobility allowing members to travel further faster. Horses allowed for new ideas to be introduced from new places as well as allowing other Indians to travel and trade along the Columbia River.

The Fred L. Mitchell Collection combines the colorful history and culture of both beadworking and horses to create this amazing exhibit. Thanks to a lifetime collecting Plateau floral and pictorial beadwork, Walla Walla, WA resident, Fred L.

Mitchell has amassed the premier collection of that material. His collection is particularly noteworthy not only because of its size, but also because of its quality and diverse subject matter. Mitchell, along with co-author Steven L. Grafe, recently published *Plateau Pictorial Beadwork - The Fred L. Mitchell Collection*, a colorful introduction to Mitchell's vast collection with hundreds of photos of extraordinary paraphernalia beaded in the pictorial tradition.

Included in "100 Horses" is a portion of that collection focusing on beaded depictions of horses. Additional pieces have been added to the exhibit by local Tribal members and Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute. From gauntlets to horse trappings, bags, vests and more, this exhibit highlights the extraordinary craftsmanship of the makers and demonstrates the importance of the horse and the affection Plateau Tribes had for their horses.

Opening day of "100 Horses" is Friday, September 1 and admission is free. The exhibit closes on December 2.

About Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute

Tamástslíkt is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. A Blue Star museum, Tamástslíkt is one of the many museums across the nation that offers free admission to families of active duty servicemen and women year-round. Free regular admission is extended to members of the CTUIR and Inwai Circle of Friends as well as to card-carrying members of our partner institutions: Oregon Historical Society and Fort Walla Walla Museum. Tamástslíkt is also a member of the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association and offers free admission to members of participating museums. Free family passes are available at local Eastern Oregon libraries. AAA members receive \$1 off admission.

In addition to the museum and interpretive center, Tamástslíkt operates a museum store, a café, and offers meeting room rentals. The Museum Store and permanent exhibits are open from 10am-5pm, Tuesday-Saturday. Kinship Cafe is open from 11am to 2pm, Tuesday-Saturday.

Tamástslíkt is located at 47106 Wildhorse Boulevard at the far end of the main driveway of the Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton, Oregon. Tamástslíkt can be reached via Exit 216 off Interstate I-84 or by driving south off Highway 11 onto Highway 331.

For more information, contact Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute at 541.429.7700 or visit www.tamastslíkt.org.

Media: For interviews or photos, contact Michelle Liberty, Attitude Marketing, 509.540.0931 or email liberty@getattitude.net.

Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute | www.tamastslíkt.org



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