

Work of Enrique Chagoya on exhibit now at PCA

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PENDLETON — Pendleton Center for the Arts has opened what Director Roberta Lavadour describes as “its most ambitious showing” featuring a solo exhibition by acclaimed Mexican artist Enrique Chagoya.

“With the support of Jordan Schnitzer and his family foundation, the Pendleton Center for the Arts has carved out a reputation for punching above its weight when it comes to mounting major exhibitions in its East Oregonian Gallery,” Lavadour said.

Previous exhibits features Chuck Close, Louise Bourgeois, Ellsworth Kelly and Kara Walker. Chagoya’s exhibit opened Aug. 5 and runs through Oct. 6.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born and raised in Mexico City, Chagoya studied political economics at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in the 1960s, and in the 1970s he moved to California to study at the San Francisco Art Institute.

He received both his MA and MFA at the University of California, Berkeley. He is currently a full professor at Stanford University’s department of Art and Art History and his work can be found in many public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

According to a PCA press release, “Chagoya uses familiar pop icons to create deceptively friendly points of entry for the discussion of complex issues. Because he is rooted in both American culture and Mexican culture,



Enrique Chagoya/Contributed Image

“The Thingly Thingness of Things” by Enrique Chagoya.

“Chagoya uses familiar pop icons to create deceptively friendly points of entry for the discussion of complex issues. Because he is rooted in both American culture and Mexican culture, he’s able to move back and forth between the two, which informs his commentary on everything from history to current events.”

he’s able to move back and forth between the two, which informs his commentary on everything from history to current events. His work juxtaposes secular, popular, and religious symbols in order to address the ongoing

cultural clash between the United States, Latin America and the rest of the world.

“His work is said to have the subtle and sophisticated ability to make people laugh and think at the same time.”

He’s made hundreds of drawings and prints over the past 30 years, and began working in the book form in 1992, which was also the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’s trip to the “New World.”

According to Lavadour, many works in the Pendleton exhibit are printed books in the style of the pre-Columbian Codex — painted books that recorded history, science, land tenure, tribute, and sacred rituals using Amate, a paper-like material or prepared animal skins that were accordion-folded.

Some of the Chagoya books in the Pendleton exhibit stretch out to almost eight feet long when displayed.

DEMONSTRATIONS

PCA will have a series of demonstrations and hands-on workshops for youth and adults while the exhibit is on view. Guests will have opportunities to experience silk-screen and relief printing, make their own accordion books and learn to make Amate. Dates and times will be posted at PendletonArts.org, and all activities will be provided free, thanks to the support of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation.

The arts center, 214 N. Main St., is open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Extended hours will be available during the Chagoya exhibit, and private before-and-after-hours tours can be booked by emailing director@pendletonarts.org.

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