

Several museums contribute to Summer of Color, including 2 Indian ones

SANTA FE, N.M. — Santa Fe appears to be awash in gradations of adobe brown yet it is a city of rich colors found nowhere else – as seen by the generations of artists who’ve made this city their home.

Color in its many shades and hues comes to the fore this summer when some of the city’s leading cultural institutions located on Museum Hill coordinate a series of exhibitions and events.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the participating institutions and their contributions to Summer of Color are:

Museum of International Folk Art

Opening May 17 is an exhibition about a color that has inspired artists’ imaginations and seduced viewers for millennia, *The Red That Colored the World*.

The Red That Colored the World combines new research and original scholarship to explore the history and widespread use of cochineal, an insect-based dye that produces brilliant reds. Use of the dye originated with indigenous people of the Americas before the arrival of Columbus and then spread throughout the world.

Visitors can see the little-known cochineal bugs and their camouflage by using iPads with a microscopic attachment. The exhibition follows the use of the precious dye from Mexico to Europe to the U.S. and beyond with a display of more than 130 objects – textiles, sculpture, paintings, manuscripts, decorative arts, clothing and more – from the Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA), private lenders and museums around the world.

The exhibition explores the history of cochineal and the seductive visual nature of red. Visitors are encouraged to try on red clothing, take pictures and join in the social media commentary.

The Red That Colored the World is on display through Sept. 13, 2015.

Museum of Indian Arts and Culture

The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, MOIFA’s sister museum sharing Museum Hill’s Milner Plaza, is as well-known for the spirited and colorful Native dancers in full dress and the music programs it presents as it is for its color-rich exhibitions, such as its ongoing examination of the quintessential Santa Fe color, turquoise.

Turquoise, Water, Sky: The Stone and Its Meaning highlights the museum’s extensive collection of Southwestern turquoise jewelry. The exhibition presents all aspects of the stone, from geology, mining and history to questions of authenticity and value.

For more than 1,000 years, people in the Southwest have used turquoise for jewelry and ceremonial purposes and traded valuable stones both within and outside the region. *Turquoise, Water, Sky* presents more than 400 necklaces, bracelets, belts, rings, earrings, silver boxes and other objects illustrating how the stone was used and its deep significance to the people of the region.

Ancient Pueblo (Santo Domingo, Zuni and others) and Navajo traditions are

explored. The exhibit ends with a display of dazzling contemporary artistry.

“Turquoise stands for water and for sky, for bountiful harvests, health and protection,” said Maxine McBrinn, curator of archaeology at the museum. “The color blue-green symbolizes creation and the hope for security and beauty.”

This comprehensive consideration of the stone runs through May 2, 2016.

Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian

The Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, New Mexico’s oldest non-profit museum, features a modernist interpretation of a Navajo hoghoan (home), an award-winning structure designed and built in 1937 by Santa Fe artist and architect William Penhallow Henderson.

Its contribution to the Summer of Color is the opening of its new Center for the Study of Southwestern Jewelry on June 6-7.

The new wing will include the first museum gallery in the country devoted permanently to Navajo and Pueblo jewelry and related traditions, including flatware, hollowware, lapidary and stone carving.

Jewelry has been a major Native art form in the Southwest for centuries and its universal appeal, especially as personal adornment, is inextricably linked to concepts of identity and status within and across all cultures.

Stone and shell jewelry from Santo Domingo and Zuni represents a continuation of an ancient tradition. In the third quarter of the 19th century, the Navajo learned silversmithing from Spanish New Mexican smiths and quickly introduced the art form to the Pueblos.

Among the iconic and enduring forms that resulted from these multicultural roots are concha belts, squash-blossom necklaces and other forms in silver, often decorated with turquoise.

Master smiths featured in the new permanent gallery include Kenneth Begay, Yazzie Johnson and Gail Bird, Charles Loloma, Louis Lomay, Fred Peshlakai, McKee Platero, Morris Robinson, Perry Shorty and many others.

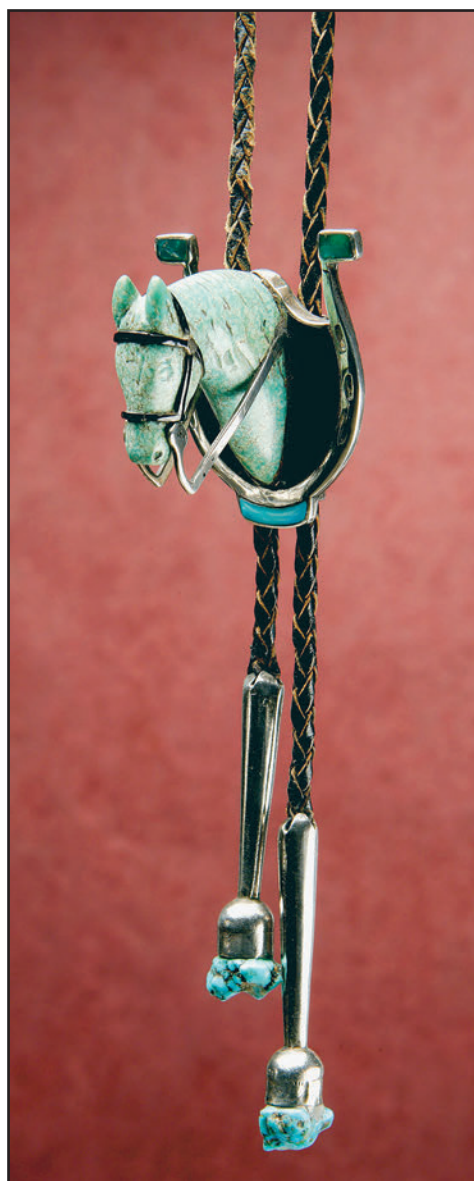
The Wheelwright’s jewelry collections are on permanent display in the new Center for the Study of Southwestern Jewelry.

International Folk Art Market|Santa Fe

When it comes to color, few markets and festivals rival the International Folk Art Market|Santa Fe, which has become the mecca for master folk artists worldwide. More than 150 artists from every corner of the globe will board buses, boats, camels and planes to bring their work to this vast and colorful bazaar.

Some arrive as celebrated cultural artists, while others have never before left their villages, let alone crossed an ocean. All of them bring centuries of craft, Tribal identity and the seeds of economic promise to this truly unique world stage.

As a symbol of hope, sustainability and preservation, green sets the theme for the market. The color green holds



Courtesy photos by Addison Doty

Turquoise horse head mounted on horseshoe bolo with jet and turquoise inlay, circa 1935; Leekya Deyuse, Zuni; Height of carving 1.25 inches; Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, Santa Fe

deep symbolic meaning in many cultures around the world.

In Tibet, green communicates peace and ease. In India, it is a symbol of purity, love and beauty. In Egypt, green represents rebirth and renewal.

Since 2004, the market has generated more than \$20 million in sales – 90 percent of which has gone home with the artists. These monumental earnings empower artists and their communities, many of whom come from developing countries where the average income is less than \$3 a day.

On July 10-12, master folk artists will sell their art – jewelry, basketry, textiles, woodwork, ceramics and more – at the largest market of its kind. Enjoy international food and music, artists’ demonstrations and the free Community Celebration on July 8 at St. John’s College Music on the Hill from 5:30-8 p.m.

Museum of Spanish Colonial Art

This museum occupies a classically Southwestern Pueblo Revival-style former home designed in 1930 by acclaimed regional architect John Gaw Meem.

Blue on Blue: Indigo and Cobalt in New Spain opens May 8. It will explore the use and importance of blue dyes and pigments in colonial life and the continued popularity of blue among the traditional arts of today.

From images of the Virgin Mary to household blankets, ceramics and friars’



Silver shoehorn, circa 1950; Awa Tsireh, San Ildefonso Pueblo; Height 3.5 inches.; Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, Santa Fe

tunics, blue was an integral part of the colonial world. The desire for blue-and-white ceramics led to a near 300-year monopoly for the workshops of New Spain creating pottery in imitation of Chinese porcelains.

The qualities of a blue pigment he found being used at Zuni pueblo led Spanish adventurer Bernardo Miera y Pacheco to write to Spain about the importance and economic potential of “Zuni blue.”

Indigo, then as now, was widely used by weavers and was the prominent color in many New Mexican and Native textiles.

Blue on Blue: Indigo and Cobalt in New Spain runs through April 2016.

Santa Fe Botanical Garden

Taking center stage at Museum Hill’s newest member, the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, are collections in true living color – a garden full of diverse plants that celebrate the region’s rich botanical heritage and biodiversity.

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden opens *Monarch – Orange Takes Flight* on May 30. Orange will predominate in the container gardens on view with other plants of complimentary colors mixed in.

These container gardens will be created by botanical garden horticulture staff, individuals in the gardening, horticulture, plant nursery and design fields.

In partnership with nature, the Santa Fe Botanical Garden demonstrates its commitment through education. Orange represents the endangered monarch butterfly with the milkweed growing in the botanical garden the only host plant for monarch larvae.

Monarchs and Milkweed is one public program on how to attract the king of the butterflies to your yard. Other orange programs will be presented, such as *Pumpkins in May* (which is when you should plant these seeds) and *More than Terracotta*, where visitors will have the opportunity to help the garden plant its orange and take a few plants home to start your own pot.

Monarch – Orange Takes Flight runs through Sept. 13, 2015.