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**May 13, 2019**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **El Paso Museum of Art Undergoing Renovation**

**EL PASO, Texas** – The El Paso Museum of Art (EPMA) has started the second major phase of its renovation with the closure of its second floor galleries.

Renovations include new wood flooring, freshly painted galleries, revised graphics and interpretation, and reconfigured spaces to showcase the completely reinstalled permanent collections of the museum.

"The reimagined galleries will continue to preserve the past, embrace the present, and shape the museum's future," said Director of the El Paso Museum of Art Dr. Victoria Ramirez. "The EPMA seeks to remain a thriving center for the study and appreciation of art."

During the renovation, the museum systems will be upgraded, funded by the City of El Paso. The City has dedicated approximately \$450,000 for the upgrades, which will ensure the museum, continue to be a safe and secure environment for art and the public. The reinstallation of the museum's collection is supported by funds raised by the El Paso Museum of Art Foundation, a private support organization working for the benefit of EPMA to provide long-term funding for exhibitions, education programming, and community outreach.

The Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Gallery, the Richard and Francis Mithoff Gallery, Dorrance and Olga Roderick Gallery, Tom Lea Gallery, and the Peter and Margaret de Wetter Gallery will close to the public on May 13 and will reopen on September 27, 2019. A special preview will be held on September 26, 2019 for EPMA Members.

Throughout the renovation, the museum's first floor will remain open and free to the public. Robust programming will take place with the *La Sala/The Living Room: A Community Art Studio* opening on June 8, 2019. The Studio will welcome children and adults to enjoy art throughout the summer with an artist-in-residence, workshops and pop-up performances. Visitors can also enjoy the exhibition *Antonio Castro: Visions of a Borderland*, on view April 19 - August 7 in the Dede Rogers Gallery.

The renovation is the largest the museum has undertaken since moving into the building in 1998; second to the 2018 reinstallation of the museum's Kress Galleries of European Art. Located in the El Paso Arts District, the museum has amassed a collection of more than 7,000 works and hosts upwards of 12 special exhibitions annually.

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