



**MUSEO**  
de las Americas

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[www.museo.org](http://www.museo.org)

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## Museo's Multicultural Spring Exhibit to Include Rare Colonial Artifacts

"Tornaviaje/The Return Route" is a showcase of unique Asian influence in early Mexico due to Pacific Colonial trade routes.

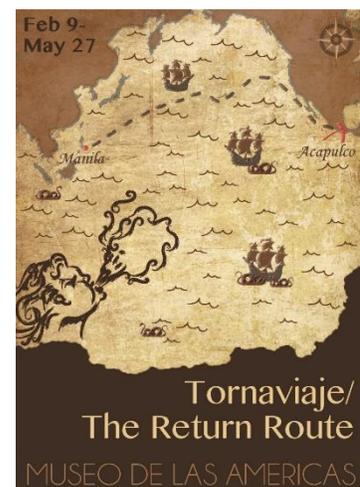


Image Courtesy of the [National Hispanic Cultural Center](http://www.nationalhispanicculturalcenter.org)

In 1565, following the currents of the winds, Spanish galleons sailed across the Pacific Ocean from the port of Acapulco in Mexico to Manila in the Philippines in search of goods and spices, unaware of the everlasting cultural consequences that would bind us forever. - Maruca Salazar, Curator

### Unique Cultural Fusion

"Tornaviaje/The Return Route" is an innovative and fascinating exhibit featuring artifacts from a period in history when colonial Pacific trade brought exotic Asian influences to the Americas via currents between Manila, Philippines and Acapulco, Mexico. The exhibit includes 21 educational panels in English and en Español. The panels are on loan from the [National Hispanic Cultural Center](http://www.nationalhispanicculturalcenter.org) in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



## Rare Historical Artifacts

Alongside the 21 bilingual panels, will be the many pieces dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> centuries, which demonstrate the fascinating fusion of cultures in a pivotal period of American history. Among them are **Rebozos**: a traditional Mexican shawl, not unlike a poncho, which has been traced to indigenous and Asian influences. Also featured is the legendary **China Poblana** garment, a style of dress that is said to emulate a fabled Hindu woman, captured by pirates at the age of 9 in the South Seas and sold into servitude in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. Alongside the outfit, which embodies cultural fusion, will be pieces from local Santa Fe Art District designer **Carol Mier** which deconstruct this concept and symbolize how different cultures interact.



[Museo de las Americas](#) is also excited to announce the inclusion of 10 Spanish silver coins from the private collection of **David Butler** of the Denver Art Museum's **Alianza**. The coins were minted in the Potosi mint, in Bolivia, during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, using Mexican silver. What makes them unique and intriguing is the myriad of oriental "chopmarks" that adorn them, proof that they traveled many voyages across the Pacific. Talavera pottery is another beautiful and iconic example of famous Mexican design with Asian roots. The white-glaze pottery often was adorned with blue accents in the traditional Chinese style. Guests to the exhibit will be astonished to learn the extent to which Eastern influence infiltrated some of the most recognizable American styles and symbols.

## Collaborating Local Cultural Institutions

[Museo de las Americas](#) is fortunate to have the support and collaboration of many local institutions for the first time. Just like the rare cultural intersection this exhibit celebrates, the [Museo](#) boasts a new relationship with organizations such as: Asian Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, Mile High Japanese American Citizens League, Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission, Denver Art Museum – Colonial Art, Denver Art Museum Asian Art Association, Asian American Student Services – University of Colorado Denver, Immigrant and Refugee Commission, Asian Pacific Development Center, as well more regular partners such as: Latin@ Student Services – University of Colorado Denver, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Alianza, History Colorado, NEWSSED, and Latino Commission.

The exhibit also features original contemporary work from local artists Carol Mier and Josiah Lee Lopez.

"This modern collaboration of local artists from diverse backgrounds embodies the spirit of ["Tornaviaje/The Return Route"](#) and by extension, the spirit of the **Santa Fe Arts District**. Museo strives to not only bring innovative and educational exhibits to its patrons, but also to celebrate the unique cultural identity of Denver." -Maruca Salazar, Curator.

## Events and Programming

Feb 9th - [Opening Reception](#) 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Feb 17th - Amor Carnal Burlesque & Wine Tasting 5:00 - 8:00 pm

\*Limited tickets available [bit.ly/MuseoAmor](http://bit.ly/MuseoAmor) \$25

March 3rd - First Friday 5:00 - 9:00 pm

March 10th - Momento Interactivo: Asian/Mexican Fusion Cuisine 6:00 - 7:30 pm

March 23rd - Conversación Contacto: Spanish Coins with David Butler & Alianza 5:00 - 7:00 pm

## Thank you to our Sponsors:



## About [Museo](#)

[Museo de las Americas](#) educates our community about the diversity of Latino Americano art and culture from ancient to contemporary through innovative exhibitions and programs. With the Latino population growing exponentially in Denver and wider communities, [Museo](#) plays an important role in building pride in the Latino community's heritage and promoting understanding among cultures. Other history and art museums in Denver cannot focus on one segment of the community in a sustained or comprehensive manner. [Museo](#) was created to fill this important niche in the cultural milieu.

Founded in 1992, [Museo](#) de las Americas purchased its current 12,000 sq. ft. building in 1994, located at 861 Santa Fe Drive in the heart of Denver's Santa Fe Arts District. Over the last 25 years, [Museo](#) has maintained its status as one of the Southwest's premier Latino art museum, including its own permanent collection of pre-Columbian, folk art and contemporary Latino art pieces, featuring avante garde international exhibitions as well as a focus on regional artists of import. Since 1992 the permanent collection of the museum has received more than 3,500 objects representing art, history and traditions of Latin American cultures.

## About [NHCC](#)

The [National Hispanic Cultural Center](#) is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and advancement of Hispanic culture, arts, and humanities. The Center presents over 700 events and creates the opportunity for thousands more through its art museum, library, genealogy center, and educational resources. The NHCC is a division of the State of New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs and is further supported by the National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization.

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