

## **Fiesta and facts at Mexican art exhibit**

Written by Davonte Longmire, Daily Vidette Staff Writer  
Wednesday, 06 February 2013 11:44

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The McLean County Museum of History is now featuring “¡Fiesta! A Celebration of Mexican Popular Arts” and is free to all ISU students.

The exhibit features over 200 pieces of art ranging from pre-Columbian, early Mexican and twentieth century art. Specifically, there is great focus on the 1920s through the 1930s time period that explains why there was dense travel to Mexico. Mexican art is unique, influential on art today and should be appreciated.

The purpose of the exhibit is to place importance on the roles Mexican art has played in the U.S. It is important to know the history and influences of the past and how these themes play into today’s society and economy. Through the exhibit, McLean County has an opportunity to enrich their knowledge of another culture and its impact.

In 1848, after the Mexican-American War, the U.S. obtained a majority of the land in southwestern territory — Texas, Utah, California, New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado. The war was predominately fought over borders and territories, resulting in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

After such devastation in the Mexican territories, many confused immigrants entered U.S. territories and decided to stay for the chance of gaining wealth in the U.S. rather than face the oppression of the Spanish caste system.

During the 20s and 30s, Americans found the Mexican and southwestern territories more desirable because of the harsh economic times World War I left America in. People could either find work in those territories or travel by train on a short trip out of the depression.

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“The exhibit is a time traveling experience,” Susan Hartzold, curator for the exhibit, said.