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**NAVAJO RUGS, SILVERSMITHING EXHIBITION COMES TO THE
BOOTH WESTERN ART MUSEUM**

Cartersville, Ga. – Visit the Booth Western Art Museum May 13 – August 13, 2006 to see *Trees in a Circle: Navajo Weavings of Teec Nos Pos*. The exhibit features 31 handmade Navajo weavings created between 1910 and 1998, from the Four Corners area of Arizona. Guests are also invited to view the companion exhibition, *Gateway to Navajoland: The Art of Silversmithing*, of stunning Navajo silverwork, including squash blossom necklaces, bolo ties, bracelets, rings, belts, and a historic concho belt.

The weavings in this exhibition were made by hand on the Navajo Indian Reservation in northeastern Arizona, from spun dyed wool. In this area, cottonwood trees grow in a circular pattern near water, which the Navajo call Teec Nos Pos, or “Trees in a Circle.”

The Teec Nos Pos style of weaving is thought to have originally been influenced by oriental rug designs as many similarities can be seen in these styles. Over the years though, the style has risen to new levels of sophistication. Today the weavings are known for bold intricate geometric designs and saturated color, often with symmetric designs and complex design systems of outlined images.

Navajo weavers are intimately aware of their weaving tradition. Weavers treasure their weaving tools and pass on the skill, as well as the tools, from generation to

generation. Each generation's innovations have affected the appearance and design of the weavings, making each weaving truly unique.

In addition to the display of textiles, *Trees in a Circle* tells the story of one trading post family's heritage. In 1905, the Teec Nos Pos Trading Post opened on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona. Since then four generations of relatives have run this old-time trading post. Each generation has continued the tradition of buying Navajo rugs and encouraging the weavers to produce quality work.

Trees in a Circle: Navajo Weavings of Teec Nos Pos is organized by the Farmington Museum in Farmington, N.M. The Booth Western Art Museum is one of five Museums across the United States with the privilege of displaying this exhibit. This is the last stop on the exhibit's tour and the only venue within 350 miles of Atlanta.

"We are very excited about hosting this wonderful exhibition that showcases the stunning work of these talented Navajo artists," said Seth Hopkins, Executive Director of the Booth Western Art Museum. "For many years weaving was not viewed as an art form, however, I think anyone viewing this exhibit would have to agree these textiles are indeed art. The intricate geometric designs seen in these weavings are often similar to modern art, yet many of the patterns are more than 100 years old. This is the Museum's first exhibition focused on art objects and we are anxious to hear what our members and guests think about the artwork on display."

About the Booth Western Art Museum

The Booth Western Art Museum is an 80,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, Georgia, where guests are invited to explore the American West through contemporary Western artwork. The Museum also features a Presidential Gallery, a Civil

War art gallery and Sagebrush Ranch, featuring hands-on art activities and areas for role-playing, storytelling and reading, all with a Western flair. Visitors to Booth Museum also enjoy the intimate downtown setting with unique specialty and antique shops, boutiques and nationally featured restaurants all within walking distance of the Museum. Open since August 2003, the Booth Museum is the only museum of its kind in the Southeast and is the second largest art museum in the state of Georgia. To learn more about the Booth Western Art Museum, visit www.boothmuseum.org.

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