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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHWEST FEATURES THE WORK OF CONTEMPORARY ARTIST LINDA VALLEJO

***Open to the Public Saturday, January 28 –Sunday, March 18, 2012***

*Midland, Texas (Jan. 20, 2012)* — Linda Vallejo's *A Prayer for the Earth* will be open for public viewing as of Saturday, January 28. Museum members and press are invited to a meet-the-artist reception in the Here and Now Gallery on Friday, January 27 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. *A Prayer for the Earth* is a mixed media installation and is the first of five exhibits featured in the Museum of the Southwest Contemporary Series 2012, "Tribal Stories." These are visual stories told by and about Native Americans using a variety of contemporary and traditional media.

"Each artist energizes their particular story from a cultural point of view reflecting an ancestral past," said Cristi Branum, Adjunct Curator of Art for the Museum of the Southwest. "Linda Vallejo is our first artist because her imagery respects the importance she finds in the collective Native American ceremony."

According to Vallejo, "*A Prayer for the Earth* embodies the wisdom of indigenous peoples which sees all of existence as animated by a common energy and related together as part of one family." Vallejo was born in Los Angeles, grew up in Europe, and attended college at the University of Madrid, Whittier College and California State University at Long Beach where she earned her MFA in printmaking. An interest in her family heritage and the cultures of the indigenous peoples in Mexico and the Americas deeply inspired this work. The installation, consisting of paintings and sculptures, is sure to stun the senses and stimulate the mind with its vibrant colors and creative insight.

Contemporary Series 2012, "Tribal Stories" has been made possible by the Arts Council of Midland and the Beal Foundation. The Museum of the Southwest welcomes the community to experience Linda Vallejo's *A Prayer for the Earth* and the other exhibitions currently on view.

The Museum of the Southwest, founded in 1965, is a nonprofit organization located in Midland, Texas. The Museum of the Southwest seeks to excite the senses through discovery in art, culture and science. The Museum of the Southwest is comprised of an Art Museum, a Children's Museum, a state of the art

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Planetarium and Sculpture Park. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Saturday, 2 to 5 p.m. on Sundays, and closed Mondays. The Planetarium is closed Sundays and Mondays. For more information on the Museum, membership, upcoming exhibitions and events, call (432) 683-2882 or send an email to [info@MuseumSW.org](mailto:info@MuseumSW.org).

For more information, images, or to schedule an interview, please contact Chelsea Dey at (432) 683-2882 ext. 304 or [cdey@museumsw.org](mailto:cdey@museumsw.org).

*The above information has been provided by the Museum of the Southwest and distributed by the Midland Convention & Visitors Bureau. The mission of the Midland Convention & Visitors Bureau is to encourage economic growth by developing, promoting, enhancing and supporting Midland as a vibrant visitor destination.*

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