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**Exhibit series showcases Oklahoma artists**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Artist Paul Medina attributes his more than 30 years of working in mixed media to a restless nature that couldn't be confined to any one medium.

“Part of the joy of making art is the struggle through the unknown of materials and new tools,” says Medina.

Throughout his discovery of new methods for creating art, Medina's themes have remained constant – capturing human truths. Much of his artwork also reflects the artistic traditions of his Spanish and French descent.

Today, his mixed media photo collages are exhibited locally and in surrounding states, including his newest exhibition, *Simpatico*, at the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

A grand opening event on Thursday, May 22 will be held for Medina, who is one of four featured artists in 2008 in the art on shARTel series at the Museum. The event, from 5 to 7 p.m. is free to the public.

*Simpatico* will be on display in the Tulsa World Gallery at the Museum from May 22 to July 2.

“The Gaylord-Pickens Museum focuses on telling Oklahoma's story through its people,” said Karlee Chill, director of museum exhibitions. “The artists we are privileged to showcase this year are a tribute to our state's creativity, talent and passion.”

While the artwork remains in keeping with the Museum's mission, it's a sharp contrast to other displays in the 22,000 square feet of exhibit space. The high-tech, interactive Museum is filled with plasma screen televisions, computer screens, touch screens and even sound recording booths.

“We have created a museum experience unlike anything else you'll find in the state,” said Chill. “Student and adult visitors alike have enjoyed experiencing the history of our state's people through very unconventional means. Because visitors can touch and interact with the majority of our exhibits, they become very engaged in what they're learning.”

The art on shARTel series continues with a variety of artists from Ponca City, whose art will include paint, mixed media and sculpture, will show from July 8 to Sept. 24, and Mays' mixed media art will be on display from Sept. 26 to Dec. 31.

For information on opening events for the remaining two shows in 2008, visit [www.oklahomaheritage.com](http://www.oklahomaheritage.com) or [myspace.com/artonshartel](http://myspace.com/artonshartel).

The Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum is located at NW 13th Street and Shartel Avenue in Oklahoma City. The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. Group rates are available for groups of 15 or more. For more information about the Museum, call 405.235.4458 or visit [www.oklahomaheritage.com](http://www.oklahomaheritage.com).

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