

WITTE MUSEUM

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Witte Museum Honors the Texas Cowboy—the *Vaquero*

SAN ANTONIO— Texas history is filled with images of a rustic and dusty land. Shadows of the Texas cowboy—the *vaquero*—still linger in our thoughts. Opening **February 1, 2007** in the Focus Gallery at the Witte Museum, *El Vaquero: The Texas Cowboy* illustrates, through photographs and portrait paintings, the faces of the rugged cowboys whose sweat and tears make Texas home.

Hardworking and devoted to the relentless land, the *vaquero* built Texas and formed the rich history we call our own. Photographer **John Dyer** and artist **Lionel Sosa** combined forces and brought together this exhibit of photographs and portrait paintings, chronicling the hard lives and difficult journeys these Texas cowboys faced. Also on view will be a painting by artist **Cristina Sosa Noriega**, who is the daughter of Lionel Sosa.

Through access to the King Ranch, the Armstrong Ranch and the Jim Hogg County Vaquero Festival Association, these photographs and portraits provide a small glimpse into daily ranch life. The *vaqueros* depicted in the exhibit come from generations of this occupation, whose land is in their blood. See the weathered faces that married the harsh Texas land.

The opening of *El Vaquero* coincides with a dinner being held to envision the Witte Museum's future South Texas Heritage Center. The *vaquero* is a staple in Texas history and the Center will become a vital destination to learn about South Texas' vibrant stories.

El Vaquero will be on view for a limited time through **April 1, 2007**. For more information call 210.357.1900 or visit www.wittemuseum.org. Free with museum admission.

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