



Media Contact: Jan Sheehan Tucker & Associates

817-348-9490

jan@tuckerpr.com

LA FONDA ON THE PLAZA INTRODUCES
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE ADVENTURE

“Pop-up” studios in lobby and special hotel package let guests observe prominent New Mexico artists at work Nov. 2 – Feb. 28, 2018

SANTA FE, N.M. (October 10, 2017) — La Fonda on the Plaza is taking the art of hospitality to a new level with its launch of a four-month Artist in Residence Adventure. Beginning November 2, 2017, each Thursday through Saturday between 4 and 7 p.m., a portion of the hotel’s iconic lobby will be transformed into a working studio, giving guests an unprecedented glimpse into the creative process of a number of different prominent New Mexico artists. The selected artists work in a variety of media including painting, beadwork, jewelry, basket weaving and more.

The program is part of a citywide Artist in Residence initiative designed to give visitors a new, interactive way to experience the art and artists that are so integral to the Santa Fe experience. “Here at La Fonda, art has always been a passion, and we’ve been collecting the pieces that grace our public spaces and guest rooms for 95 years,” says Jennifer Kimball, Chairman of the Board of La Fonda, which recently became the only hotel in Santa Fe to offer complimentary, docent-led tours of its own extensive art collection, and was named to *Condé Nast Traveler’s* 2015 Gold List of Hotels with Great Art Collections. “We’re excited to add a dynamic new dimension to the La Fonda art experience with the artists who will actually be creating on site. Guests will have a chance to watch masterpieces come to life before their very eyes, talk with the artists, and in some cases, even participate in the demonstrations. Each artist will also have pieces available for sale.”

During the Artist in Residence program (from November, 2 – February 28, 2018), La Fonda on the Plaza is also offering a special accommodations package to help guests truly immerse themselves in the magic of live art creation. The package includes luxury guest room accommodations for two, complimentary breakfast for two in the hotel’s La Plazuela restaurant (a \$40 value per day), complimentary passes for two to the New Mexico Museum of Art and other state-run museums, and a gift of La Fonda’s stunning coffee table book, *La Fonda Then & Now*, which contains numerous color reproductions of works in the hotel’s art collection. To book this package, please click [here](#).

Artists will be on site at La Fonda every week. Kicking off the program Nov. 2 – 4, 2017 is painter Nocona Burgess, known for strikingly modern depictions of Indigenous men and women from the tribal Nations of the Southern Plains. His work can be found in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, Bristol Museum – Bristol, England, American Museum – Bath, England, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture – Santa Fe, NM and many more museums. Nocona currently resides in Santa Fe with his wife, Danielle and son, Quahada. Other artists to be featured include Jeff DeMent (jewelry); Tiffany Adams (jewelry); Sandy Vaillancourt (painting); Marla Allison (painting); Joseph J Newman (beadwork); Hollis Chitto (beadwork); Mateo Romero (painting) and David McElroy (basket weaving and jewelry.)

To see the full schedule and learn more about the artists, please click [here](#).

About La Fonda on the Plaza:

Opened in 1922, La Fonda on the Plaza sits at the terminus of the Santa Fe Trail and is the only hotel on the famous Santa Fe Plaza. Reports of an inn here date back to the 1600s, making La Fonda one of America's most historic hotels. Formerly a Harvey Hotel, La Fonda offers 180 unique guest rooms and suites, including 15 luxury rooms and suites built around a rooftop terrace with breathtaking views of Santa Fe and the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. The hotel's signature restaurant, La Plazuela, and bar, La Fiesta Lounge, are located off the lobby and open all year. The rooftop Bell Tower bar is also open May through October. In Detours at La Fonda, the hotel's signature gift shop, guests will find a curated assortment of New Mexico-made wares. With more than 20,347 square feet of event space, La Fonda is a favorite conference and wedding location. The hotel recently completed a comprehensive renovation designed to bring the property up to modern standards of luxury while fully preserving the history, authenticity and character that distinguish La Fonda. The AAA Four Diamond property is a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Historic Hotels of America and was named "Best Historic Hotel" (76 – 200 rooms) at the organization's 2016 Awards of Excellence. La Fonda was also named "Hotel of the Year" at the New Mexico Hospitality Association's 2016 Top HAT Awards.

###