

# **Armstrong's**

150 East 3rd Street, Pomona, CA 91766

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 13 – August 22, 2009**

**Receptions: Saturday June 13 6 – 9pm  
Saturday July 11, 6 – 9pm  
Saturday August 8, 6 – 9pm**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mata Ortiz Exhibition**

Armstrong's announces its second annual Mata Ortiz exhibition and sale. The Mata Ortiz art movement continues to expand as new artists have learned the developed techniques. The exhibition will run from June 13 thru August 22, 2009.

Mata Ortiz is a small village in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, less than 150 miles from the United States/Mexican border. This unique art movement started with one man by the name of Juan Quezada. As a young boy, Quezada became fascinated with pottery after finding ancient pottery pieces and potshards from the Casa Grandes civilization in northern Chihuahua, Mexico. He began experimenting with local clays and colors made from local minerals. In 1976, Quezada was discovered by an American anthropologist, Spencer MacCallum, and soon gained worldwide recognition for his art.

Mata Ortiz pots are hand built without the use of a potter's wheel. The shaping, polishing and painting of the clay is entirely done by hand, often with tiny brushes made from children's hair. *Terra sigillata*, a refined, thin liquid slip, is used for the painted decoration elements. It can be burnished with a soft cloth or smooth rock to achieve a shine ranging from a smooth silky luster to a high gloss. The ancient pottery traditions of this region have been refined and adopted by the artists of Mata Ortiz. Their ollas incorporate elements of contemporary design and decoration reflecting each potter's distinctive use of the low-fire clay in creating breathtaking works of art.

The talented artists of Mata Ortiz have developed and created their own individual style in making these astonishing pottery pieces. The phenomenon of Mata Ortiz encompasses a unique cultural expression, economic need and artistic freedom producing an unexpected but extraordinary artistic movement in this small community. Today collectors come from all over the world to visit the small village and to acquire the miraculous pottery of Mata Ortiz.

Armstrong's is located at 150 East 3rd Street Pomona, Calif., 91766. The gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and every second Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The gallery will be hosting three receptions for the exhibition on the Pomona Second Saturday Art Walk. The scheduled dates are June 13, July 11, and August 8 and will run from 6 to 9 p.m. These three events are free to the public.

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**CONTACT:** Armstronggallery@verizon.net  
**HOURS:** Tuesday – Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** 150 East 3rd Street Pomona, CA 91766  
**PHONE:** (909) 623-6464

**[www.armstronggallery.net](http://www.armstronggallery.net)**