

Teup ! i rhe t_ rotot

This exhibit is equal parts celebration of the eye and artistry of photographer Chris Sessions. Currently based in Lafayette, Colorado and originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Chris is not only an alum of the University of Colorado Boulder but an accomplished professional photographer, videographer and composer with a passion and talent for skateboarding. As you can read in the various resources below (scan the QR code for access), Chris' connection with the first family of Charrería in Colorado as depicted in this exhibit, the Torres, is the catalyst and reason we are here. Our eyes are drawn to not only Chris' ability to capture shadow and light in B&W, but also to his use of color photography in a way that seems to erase the last 175-plus years. In rich aesthetic

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Escaramuza Selección USA
2022

In spotlights of sun beams and arena-dust motes, some of the best U.S.-based escaramuzas rehearse in a colorful array of dresses and horses. This team in particular competes in a special invite-only, highly regarded competition in Mexico

Torneo La Campana
2022

When you fly in or out of Denver International Airport, you might be familiar with the quilt of farming squares inlaid with irrigation circles that dot the landscape below. But if you

Escaramuza Charra Flor De Aguilena
National Western Stock Show 2019

When impeccability and protocol give way to humility and gratitude, escaramuzas and their horses form a circle of prayer before riding at the 2019 National Western Stock Show. Outside of competitions that send them around the U.S. and, if they are most lucky, to Mexico, Colorado teams like Escaramuza Charra Flor De Aguilena will also perform in the Mexican Rodeo Extravaganza to showcase their talent and culture.

Conceived of and

Roberto Torres Junior | Piales
Campeonato Millonario Tequila
Hacienda Vieja 2019

As the second suerte in charreada, Piales is both exciting to watch and dangerous to execute. The charro ropes the back two legs of a horse as it gallops by and, if successful, secures the rope to his

Damien Cruz
Rancho Los Laureles 2018

Prestos estad a combatir / Be ready to fight
Oid llamad, suena el clarín / Hear the call, the bugle sounds
Las armas pronto prepared / Prepare the weapons quickly
Y la victoria disputad / And strive for victory

breed and train horses also runs deep and creates horses tame and kind enough for kids like Damian to ride - even without stirrups. From stick ponies

Jaim

in history. Perhaps one of the most well-known figures of the charro is legendary Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata (1879-1919). His father raised him in the Charrería tradition of Morelos where he competed and trained horses professionally. Zapata's Charrería background then went on to be essential in the

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Carrying an estandarte (banner) of La Virgen de Guadalupe / Virgin of Guadalupe, escaramuza Alma Hernandez represents her team during the Marcha de Zacatecas parade. While athletes from other religions are not barred from competition,

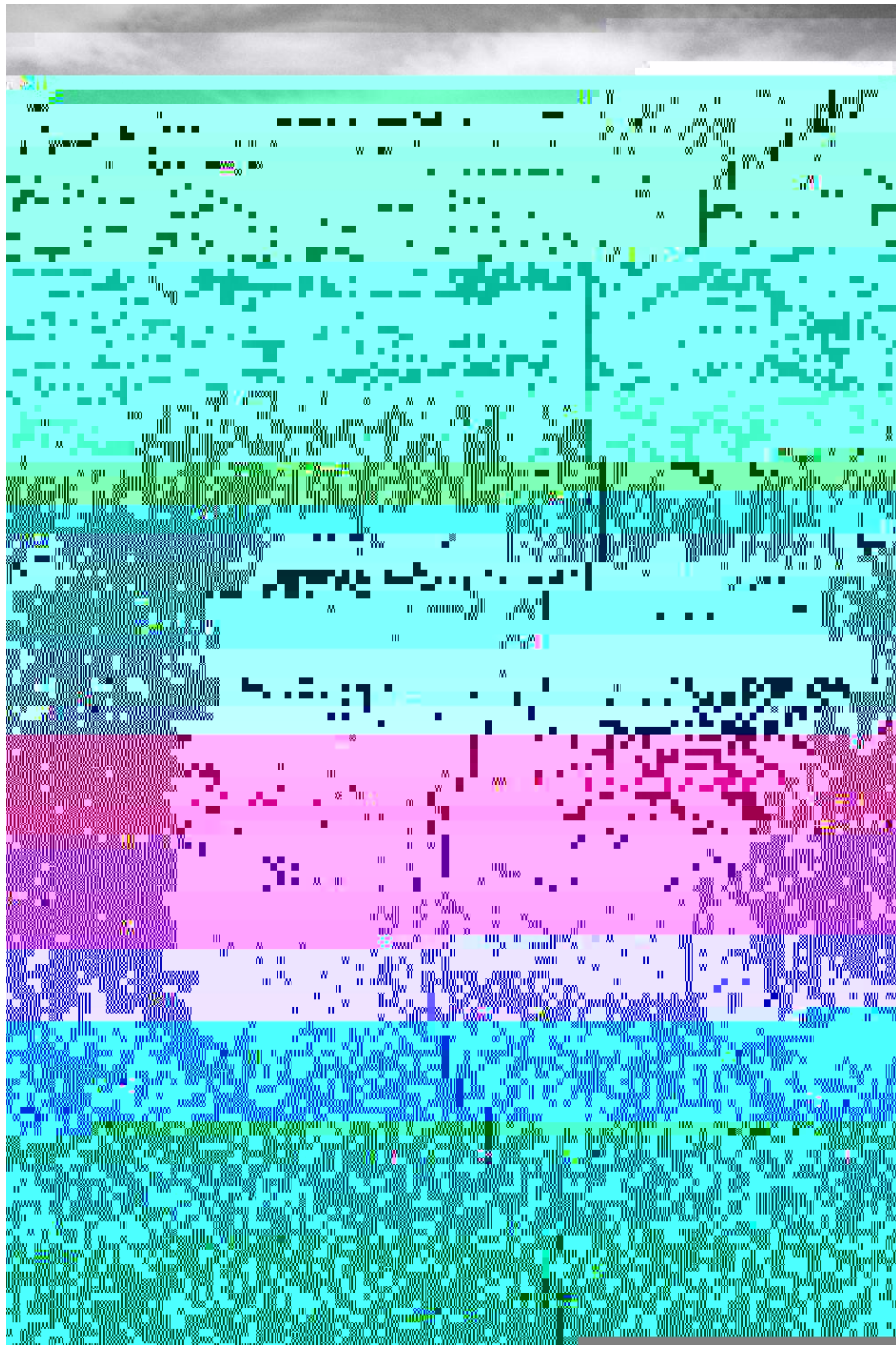
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Aruby's sombrero is halo-like, and an educated equine ear bends back to listen

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they be at premier venues or backyard parties where horses can easily make a dramatic entrance.

Roberto Torres Senior



Don Roberto Torres y La India
Rancho Las Delicias 2022

Roberto Torres salutes the audience at a charreada while his horse La India stunts a lively seated position. According to Chris Sessions, "La India is the



Untitled
Bennet, Colorado 2021

If sparks fly to make a horseshoe fit just right, in this image a horse stares down the flames of an embellished version of their technological successor at a local charreada. Untold generations of horses - and their equine relatives like mules and donkeys - powered the spread of human civilization across the globe through the gift of their physical strength and mental acuity. In what became Mexico and the United States, equines both fostered colonization and fought against its tide. Today, when not competing or performing in Charrería, they might stand technologically sidelined but still culturally relevant and revered.



Jorge Lugo
2018

According to escarmuza queen, Carolina Herrera, “horses are attuned to riders to withstand noise and stimulus.” The whirl of a lasso orbiting through their peripheral vision could spook any other horse, but Jorge Lugo’s horse stands calm, relaxed, trusting and trustworthy. As a full moon keeps watch, Lugo practices for Terna, a team roping event where three charros work together to rope a bull in the lienzo.



Escaramuza Charra Rancho Alegre
Estatad Colorado 2021

Under the expanse of Colorado sky, one half of an escaramuza team finds a quiet moment on the periphery of the competition grounds. Their identical side-saddle draped skirts recall the same hue as the distant sky, while the individuality of their horses stands out in differing degrees of coat colors and body language. Each Escaramuza team has their own unique dress for the competition, a new one each year, often made by designers in Mexico. The women (as well as the men) are checked by the judges to make sure their clothing and horses are according to regulation to keep everyone - including the animals - safe. Such standards and traditions are regulated through the requirement that everything is handmade in Mexico. With what Gloria Anzaldua called the “dividing line” of the border, and with cultural nexus situated in Mexico, competitors from the United States face obstacles to how traditional and competitive they can actually be. From substituting horses in events based in Mexico, to taking extra time and planning for their gear to arrive from Mexico, such are the extra steps wrought by borderlands that keep Charrería from evolving faster in the U.S.



El Tilingo Lingo
Mexican Rodeo Extravaganza 2020

Performing yearly at the Mexican Rodeo Extravaganza at the National Western Stock Show, Folklorico dancers from Lisa T's Dance Academy spiral across the arena to the effect of doves' wings in El Tilingo Lino, a Mexican folk dance from the state of Veracruz. While Charrería is an equestrian-focused tradition, it is part of a larger practice and celebration of traditional Mexican cultural heritage that includes dancing, singing, musical performance, food, artisans and more - often to showcase the regional distinctiveness of Mexico's 31 states and the federal district of Mexico City. To watch an example of Folklorico dancing, please visit:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CO0uGLKFYD/>

Sof

herself, Roni worked at the Center for 27 years, ushering countless students through our academic programs and overseeing core administrative and financial operations with kindness, humor, and a keen eye that only Virgos have.

Conclusión / Conclusion:

Thank you so much for visiting the digital exhibit for



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