

**University of Arizona Museum of Art (UAMA)**

## **UAMA presents Louise Serpa's rodeo photographs in correspondence with Goya etchings.**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Tucson, Arizona, February 20, 2007** – The University of Arizona Museum of Art announces Louise Serpa: American Rodeo Pictures, an exhibition of large-scale, black-and-white photographs spanning Serpa's career from the 1960s to the early 2000s. The exhibition runs from March 23 through June 10, 2007.

UAMA will hold an opening reception on Thursday, March 29, from 5 to 6:30 pm. The Museum will host an Artist's Talk on April 15 at 1:30, featuring Louise Serpa in conversation with UAMA assistant curator Susannah Maurer. Both events are free and open to the public.

The exhibition is presented in conjunction with Goya's Mastery in Prints: La Tauromaquia, and is the first in a series entitled "Correspondence: In Relation to Goya" which presents the work of contemporary artists in dialogue with Goya's four major print suites.

A self-taught photographer, Louise Serpa began taking pictures at local ropings in Nevada in the early 1950s. By 1963, she was the first woman allowed to photograph inside the arena on the professional rodeo circuit. Over the course of a nearly 50-year career, Serpa has perfected the art of isolating one moment from an unpredictable trajectory of rapid, frenzied motion and capturing that moment with dynamism, beauty and unexpected grace.

Serpa's shots capture the excitement, the beauty and the peril of man's interaction with bulls, horses, calves and steers in the rodeo setting. But her rodeo photography is not simply the work of a skilled sports photographer or of a meticulous documentarian. Serpa combines the curving lines of a bucking animal with the twisted, bodily contortions of a rider to produce pictures filled with poetic exuberance, securing the energy and wonder of a split-second movement for permanent viewing.

UAMA gratefully acknowledges Louise Serpa, without whom the exhibition could not have been realized; the generous underwriting support of Lynnette Hyde Mautner /graficas; and digital printing services provided by Centric Photo Processing, Tucson.

Produced in celebration of this exhibition, the limited-edition portfolio, Louise Serpa: American Rodeo Pictures, will be available through graficas, Tucson.

*The University of Arizona Museum of Art encompasses one of the premier collections of European, early American and 20<sup>th</sup>-century art in the Southwest. The Museum also presents changing exhibits that feature the work of established as well as emerging artists. UAMA is one of the only twelve museums in Arizona accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM)*

*and one of only 750 museums nationwide that has earned this highest award for excellence in the museum field.*

Media contact:

Gary Nusinow

UAMA Marketing Director

(520) 621-9507

[garyn@email.arizona.edu](mailto:garyn@email.arizona.edu)

[artmuseum.arizona.edu](http://artmuseum.arizona.edu)