

SOUTHWESTERN UNVEILING OF AMERICAN DEVOTIONAL ARTIST

(For Immediate Release, Santa Fe, NM – July 12, 2011) The work of American self-taught visionary devotional artist, Stephen JM Palmer (1882-1965) will be shown for the first time in the southwest when the J. Compton Gallery of Wimberley, Texas will feature six pieces of Palmer's work at The Santa Fe Show "Objects of Art".

A farm laborer and logger in rural Wisconsin and Minnesota, Palmer suffered a spinal injury in the 1920s that left him bedridden later in life. He began to teach himself to draw using colored ink and Palmer turned out shrine-like portraits of Jesus and other religious figures framed in bright curvilinear plant patterns that suggest fancy, demonic playing cards. All of Palmer's paintings and drawings feature religious subjects and his art has a Byzantine richness. His work, discovered in the 2008 estate sale of his caretaker, made a double debut at Carl Hammer Gallery in Chicago and Rico/Maresca in New York.

Palmer was a member of a Christian fringe group in the Midwest, and he obsessively turned out images of Christ and other religious figures, embedded in wild geometric designs. His trippy drawings, executed during 1955-1965, are unlike any other religious paintings. He had visions and expressed them in the psychedelic visual language of the time. Palmer produced a massive record of Christian faith with the roughly 400 known and recently rediscovered mixed media paintings and drawings on paper. As private devotional art, the works announce the layered complexity and subversive potential of religious imagery. As artifacts uncovered, they speak about the Cold War era in America and collectively hold clues to reconstructing the psychology and motivations of an individual.

-more-

THE SANTA FE SHOW

OBJECTS OF ART

About The Santa Fe Show “Objects of Art”: The Santa Fe Show is a unique antiques and art show returning to Santa Fe at El Museo de Cultural in the city’s Railyard. The Santa Fe Show serves as a compliment to the city’s traditional Ethnographic and Indian Market weekends. Premiering with a preview party benefiting the Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society on Friday, August 12, The Santa Fe Show will be open to the public from August 13 through 15 and again on August 19 through 21, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. There will also be a second week opening event on Thursday, August 18 that will benefit El Museo de Cultural.

The Santa Fe Show features an elite selection of more than 60 vendors presenting outstanding examples of art and design in a wide range of media and historic periods including the work of living artists. Exhibitors at The Santa Fe Show represent the first tier of specialists in their fields and come from across the country including New York, Florida, California and Texas. The Santa Fe Show is operated by veteran fine art and antiques show producers Kim Martindale and John Morris.

Admission to The Santa Fe Show is \$12 per person (or \$16 for the run of show) with children under 16 admitted free. Updated show information is available on the web site, www.SantaFeShow.com or at 505-660-4701.

###