



# • TAMÁSTSLIKT •

CULTURAL INSTITUTE

72789 Highway 331, Pendleton, OR 97801 USA

**NEWS RELEASE**

April 7, 2008

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*Renowned Local Artist to Display  
Art Inspired by Reservation Life*



“The Properties of Paint,” an exhibit featuring Oregon painter James Lavadour, opens April 11, 2008, at the Tamástslíkt Cultural in Pendleton, Oregon. An admission-free opening reception at the gallery is scheduled from 4:00 P.M.-to-6:00 P.M. At that time, guests will have the opportunity to meet Lavadour and hear him discuss his works. Additional “Gallery Talks” with Lavadour will be scheduled during the exhibit, which runs through June 10, 2008.

Currently regarded as the most important Northwest painter, Pendleton-based Lavadour, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, is a native son of several lineages, including German, Irish, Chinook, Walla Walla, Assiniboine Sioux, and French Canadian. He recently was honored by the Smithsonian Institute National Museum of the American Indian when it purchased “Blanket,” one of his most significant later works. Created in 2005, “Blanket” is a multi-paneled painting, mixing abstract and landscape forms and bursting with awe-inspiring

colors. When it was exhibited in Portland in 2005, collectors wanted to purchase individual panels, but the offers were rejected to keep this very special artwork intact.

Tamástslikt Curator Randy Melton says Lavadour's latest works, which attracted serious attention and established him as one of the world's foremost artists, are unlike his early paintings. While at Tamástslikt, "Properties" will be supplemented by a show of early Lavadour works. Some critics viewed Lavadour's early emotional interpretations of the land to be almost like photographs, and by the mid-90s, his style changed dramatically. He now focuses on abstract layers of rich colors, filled with energy, beauty and music, which he describes as "the intersections between his better-known landscapes and his lesser-known architectural structures."

Lavadour finds inspiration for his works in what he knows best: his home on the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Blue Mountains and in the deep respect for the land held by Native Americans.

Rebecca Dobkins at Willamette University's Hallie Ford Museum curated "The Properties of Paint." Willamette published the accompanying gallery and teacher's guides.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students, and group rates are available. Admission is free the first Friday of each month.

**Tamástslikt Cultural Institute is located at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton. From Interstate 84 take exit 216 and follow the signs to Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Coming from the north, take the Mission exit from Highway 11 just northeast of Pendleton and follow the signs to the Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Tamástslikt is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to exhibits telling the story of the three Tribes' history and culture, there is also a Museum Store and the Kinship Café.**

**For more information: 541-966-9748 or [www.tamastlikt.org](http://www.tamastlikt.org). Direct dial the museum store at toll free 1-866-282-2022. Tamástslikt is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**

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