

For Immediate Release

MUZEO Lusters in all things gold with the Premiere Opening February 3, 2011 of GOLD; The Exhibition

Anaheim (Jan 25, 2011)—On Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011, MUZEO (the noted center for arts, knowledge, entertainment, and culture in Anaheim, CA) presents its newest exhibit with the opening of **GOLD**. The exhibit, which has been appraised at over \$4.8 million, includes large embossed plaques, nose ornaments, intricate necklaces and effigy pendants- as well as polychrome ceramics, and objects made of precious stones, whale-tooth ivory, and bone.

GOLD features beautiful pieces of work unearthed during the Penn Museums 1940 excavations of the ancient burial site at Sitio Conte, located about 100 miles west of Panama City. In addition to displaying these remarkable artifacts **GOLD** will take you back to the way of life in which these pieces were constructed, as well as demonstrate the adversities the Penn Museum excavators faced during the dramatic dig.

The excavation site, referred to as The River Of Gold ...was named for the large number of artifacts that washed ashore during a great flood in 1927 causing the Rio Grande de Coclé to change its course right over the hidden burial ground of an ancient warrior chief and his loyal subjects.

According to the exhibitions curator and co-author of the book, River of Gold: Pre-Columbian Treasures from Sitio Conte, Dr. Pamela Jardine, the hidden burial site was a blessing in disguise. "There were no markers to indicate that there was a cemetery there... If there had been markers, the Spaniards would have dug it up," said Jardine.

The site, which was amazingly undiscovered by Spanish conquistadors who devastated the native population in the 16th century, was the first scientifically controlled excavation in Panama's history.

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To add a local angle to the story of **GOLD**, one of the galleries will focus exclusively on the California Gold Rush telling firsthand accounts of the Gold Rush through many different perspectives including Native American, Local Adventurers, and Gold Seekers who immigrated from all over the world during this frenzied time. **Gold Fever** features over 1,200 square-feet of history and photographs in which the rich history of the Gold Rush is explained. Over 300,000 Individuals journeyed to California after Gold was discovered in 1848. The discovery led to the immediate growth of San Francisco and eventually led the Compromise of 1850 in which California was admitted to the union as its 31st state.

Check muzeo.org for a listing of GOLD special events including panning for gold, a jewelry trunk show and prospecting events and programs to compliment each exhibition with local flair.

MUZEO, located at 241 South Anaheim Boulevard in Anaheim, CA., is a center for arts, knowledge, entertainment and culture, engaging people of all ages via the showcase of prestigious and world-class traveling exhibits. MUZEO features a unique variety of special stories. MUZEO is located at 241 South Anaheim Boulevard in Anaheim, CA. The 25,000 square foot complex encompasses Anaheim's original Carnegie Library (built in 1908) and a state-of-the-art gallery space that has been seamlessly integrated into the downtown urban setting since 2007.

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