

# **Peruvian weaver to display work at South Dakota Art Museum**

BROOKINGS , S.D. — South Dakota Art Museum will exhibit the work of Peruvian master weaver Edwin Sulca Dec. 9, 2008 through April 12, 2009.

Sulca will be present at a reception for him Dec. 12 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The weaver will make a presentation at 5:30 p.m.

“As a third-generation master weaver, Sulca creates weavings to express his poetry, tales and stories from his native Peru ,” explained John Rychtarik, curator of exhibits at SDAM.

“It is an honor to exhibit the weavings of Peru ’s master weaver, Edwin Sulca,” said Rychtarik.

“Through the use of symbolic images in his weavings, he tells the story of his people.

“Although the weavings are very traditional, the symbolic designs and images, in many cases, create a very contemporary optical illusion.”

Sulca learned his weaving skills from his grandfather, who earned the national distinction of “Great Master” in 1994, and his father, who is also known as a master and teacher of weaving.

The Sulcas use the “punto arwi” technique of weaving, a pre-Incan method that involves twisting the yarn around the warp, or vertical thread, instead of just passing it through.

Besides keeping the tradition of the ancient technique, Sulca uses native wool that is spun locally and colored with natural plant and insect dyes.

The results are Sulca’s incomparable textiles. His famous blending of colors and geometric patterns create the suggestion of ascending stairs, flowing ribbons and other optical illusions.

Sulca’s colorful and sometimes-elaborate designs are influenced by nature, his surroundings, poetry and music. His work has also been affected by turbulent experiences during the 80s when the group called “Shining Path” terrorized Peru .

The weaver has traveled extensively throughout Peru and internationally to exhibit and teach. Sulca has exhibited in major museums around the world including his most recent experience as Artist in Residence at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem , Mass.

The art museum’s hours are Mon. through Fri. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sun. 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. For more information call 866-805-7590 or 605-688-5423.

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Photo: Peruvian master weaver, Edwin Sulca, works on a commissioned piece at his loom in 2005 for the chapel of Williams College in Williamstown, Mass.



Photo: Edwin Sulca, Peruvian master weaver, uses special techniques and a blending of colors to produce the illusion of a flowing ribbon in this piece titled “El Chumpi.”

