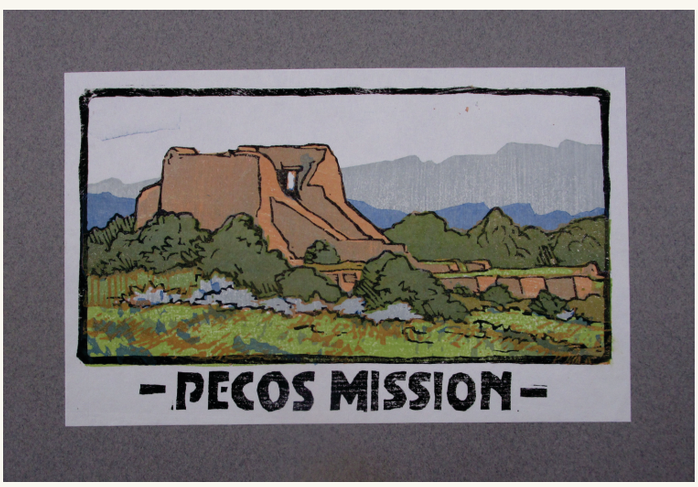
Commissions

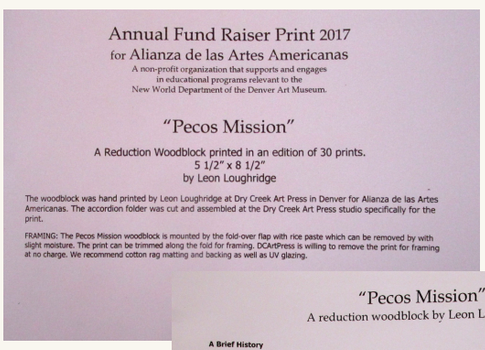
Pecos Mission
2017

Size: 7” x 10””
Edition: 30
Release Date: October 2017
Print Processes: Serigraph and woodblock
Client: Alianza de las Americas

An eight page accordian booklet was created for the Alianza de las Americas, a Denver Art Museum support group, for their annual fund raiser. The group focuses on Spanish Colonial Arts and so the Pecos Mission National Historic Park was chosen as the subject. The cover image is a 5 color woodblock. All the type and line illustrations were printed as serigraph. The feature image “Pecos Mission” was printed using the Moku Hanga printing technique. The cover paper is a handmade Japanese paper dating from 1910.







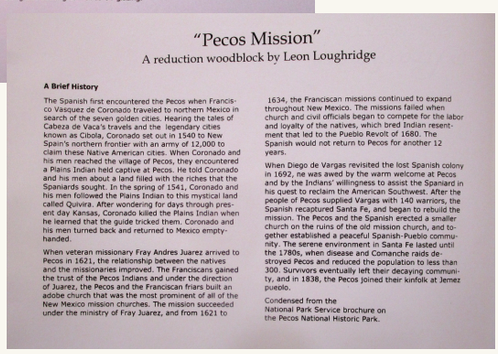
Annual Fund Raiser Print 2017
for Alianza de las Artes Americanas
A non-profit organization that supports and engages in educational programs relevant to the New World Department of the Denver Art Museum.

“Pecos Mission”

A Reduction Woodblock printed in an edition of 30 prints.
5 1/2” x 8 1/2”
by Leon Loughridge

The woodblock was hand printed by Leon Loughridge at Dry Creek Art Press in Denver for Alianza de las Artes Americanas. The accordion folder was cut and assembled at the Dry Creek Art Press studio specifically for the print.

FRAMING: The Pecos Mission woodblock is mounted by the fold-over flap with rice paste which can be removed by with slight moisture. The print can be trimmed along the fold for framing. DCArtPress is willing to remove the print for framing at no charge. We recommend cotton rag matting and backing as well as UV glazing.



“Pecos Mission”
A reduction woodblock by Leon Loughridge

A Brief History

The Spanish first encountered the Pecos when Francisco Vásquez de Coronado traveled to northern Mexico in search of the seven golden cities. Hearing the tales of Cabeza de Vaca's travels and the legendary cities known as Cibola, Coronado set out in 1540 to New Spain's northern frontier with an army of 12,000 to claim these Native American cities. When Coronado and his men reached the village of Pecos, they encountered a Plains Indian held captive at Pecos. He told Coronado and his men about a land filled with the riches that the Spaniards sought. In the spring of 1541, Coronado and his men followed the Plains Indian to this mystical land called Quivira. After wondering for days through present day Kansas, Coronado killed the Plains Indian when he learned that the guide tricked them. Coronado and his men turned back and returned to Mexico empty-handed.

When veteran missionary Fray Andres Juarez arrived to Pecos in 1621, the relationship between the natives and the missionaries improved. The Franciscans gained the trust of the Pecos Indians and under the direction of Juarez, the Pecos and the Franciscan friars built an adobe church that was the most prominent of all of the New Mexico mission churches. The mission succeeded under the ministry of Fray Juarez, and from 1621 to 1634, the Franciscan missions continued to expand throughout New Mexico. The missions failed when church and civil officials began to compete for the labor and loyalty of the natives, which bred Indian resentment that led to the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. The Spanish would not return to Pecos for another 12 years.

When Diego de Vargas revisited the lost Spanish colony in 1692, he was awed by the warm welcome at Pecos and by the Indians' willingness to assist the Spaniard in his quest to reclaim the American Southwest. After the people of Pecos supplied Vargas with 140 warriors, the Spanish recaptured Santa Fe, and began to rebuild the mission. The Pecos and the Spanish erected a smaller church on the ruins of the old mission church, and together established a peaceful Spanish-Pueblo community. The serene environment in Santa Fe lasted until the 1780s, when disease and Comanche raids destroyed Pecos and reduced the population to less than 300. Survivors eventually left their decaying community, and in 1838, the Pecos joined their kinfolk at Jemez pueblo.

Condensed from the
National Park Service brochure on
the Pecos National Historic Park.

