NEWS RELEASE

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Museum of Archaeology Presents New Exhibit: *The Other Life of Fakes: Valuable Parallel Stories*

EL PASO, Texas—The El Paso Museum of Archaeology invites the community to visit the new lobby pop-up exhibition, *The Other Life of Fakes: Visible Parallel Stories*. The exhibit opens Friday, July 12.

The exhibit will provide the public with an overview of fake artifacts in museum collections, including the ones in the Museum of Archaeology. Topics covered by the exhibit include: what defines a fake, the damage caused to the historic and cultural interpretation of ancient cultures when fakes are not properly identified, and how fakes are used by museums in new educational and interpretive ways.

Members of the public also will be challenged to share their opinion on whether several pieces on display are real or modern fakes of an ancient artifacts.

In addition to detailed stories of Mesoamerican fakes in Mexico, the exhibit will highlight the small town of Mata Ortiz through the lesser-known history behind their ceramic-making renaissance. The town's production of fake ceramics imitating those of the ancient Casas Grandes culture of northern Chihuahua, Mexico highlights the exhibit's central premise: that fakes have their own stories to tell, which inevitably diverge from the official record.

The Other Life of Fakes: Valuable Parallel Stories will be on display until January 11, 2025.

The El Paso Museum of Archaeology is free and open Tuesday through Saturday. For more information about the museum, including exhibitions and events, visit www.EPMArch.org.

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Promoting Transparent & Consistent Communication Among All Members of the Community

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