



Escaramuza, The Poetics of Home

Escaramuza, The Poetics of Home was created in 2023 as part of the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame's acclaimed exhibition *Soldaderas to Amazonas: Escaramuzas Charras*. Escaramuza, translated to English, is the word for "skirmish," and consists of an eight-member team of equestrians executing intricate patterns at a gallop. Its origins trace back to the Mexican revolution when women began riding horses to protect their communities and today it is considered a performance art. As escaramuzas charras, these women reclaim their Mexican cultural heritage and affirm their Mexican-American identity. Riders wear stunning traditional outfits inspired by the fearless soldaderas, women fighters in the Mexican Revolution.

Escaramuza, The Poetics of Home features the most recent photographic study of award-winning photographer Constance Jaeggi. The project was a 2024 Lensculture Critics' Choice Awards winner. Original poetic works from 2023 Texas Poet Laureate Ire'ne Lara Silva, and Angelina Sáenz, award-winning educator, poet, and writing project fellow at UCLA complement the exhibition, considering themes of identity, family, and gender within the escaramuza community.

"The Cowgirl Museum sought Constance Jaeggi to participate in this exhibition and I believe many will find her art both arresting and beautiful," said NCM Associate Executive Director Diana Vela, PhD. "Constance travelled to several states to capture these authentically unique portraits of women who celebrate an important part of their Mexican culture through the sport." The Museum is now proud to offer the exhibition for travel to additional institutions. Paola Pimienta, Ambassador of the U.S. Coordination of Charrería, who was instrumental in the coordination of textiles and also for contacts for the portraits noted that for her, "Seeing my culture and experience translated from my words to poetry was both powerful and validating."

"Photographing these remarkable women has been a journey of profound discovery, unveiling a unique tapestry of personal narratives and experiences which we wanted to make sure were seen and heard," said Jaeggi. "Our collaboration aims to empower and amplify the voices of these women, and questions what it means to be Mexican, what it means to be American, and what it means to be a woman."

About Constance Jaeggi

Jaeggi is a photographic artist based between London, UK, and Fort Worth, TX. She moved to Texas from her native Switzerland in 2009 to pursue her degree from Texas Christian University and begin her competitive cutting horse-riding career. Jaeggi has studied at the New York Film Academy and most recently completed a Master of Art History and Art World Practice at Christie's in London. In 2021, she was shortlisted for the Critical Mass Awards and has been published notably by *National Geographic*, *The Guardian*, and *The Washington Post*.

About the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame

The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame honors and celebrates women, past and present, whose lives exemplify the courage, resilience, and independence that helped shape the West. The Hall of Fame's purpose is to preserve history and foster an appreciation for their ideals and spirit of self-reliance. Established in 1975, the Museum is considered an invaluable national educational resource for its exhibits, research library and archives, and photograph and artifact collections.



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Exhibit Contents:	42 works, various sizes 16" x 20" to 48" x 58" Introduction panel and object labels, text also available in digital format 19 original poems in digital format
Exhibit Space required:	Approximately 200 linear feet
Rental Fee:	\$8,000 for 8-week exhibition period, 2 weeks allowed before and after exhibition install/deinstall and shipping. Additional weeks are available at pro-rated fee.
Shipping:	Venue to pay for round-trip shipping via approved fine art carrier
Security & Insurance:	Limited security requirement. Insurance certificate required from venue.
Support Materials:	Press Kit with media images, sample press release, and promotional graphics Digital assets including podcasts with the artist and poets, audio recordings of poems by poets, and audio clips from interviews with the escaramuza charras pictured in the exhibition Registrar's Packet
Dates Available:	Exhibition available to travel in August 2025 and beyond
Contact:	Ashley Kowalski, Curator of Collections akowalski@cowgirl.net 817-509-8983

Selected Images from *Escaramuza, The Poetics of Home*



Exhibition Installation Views



