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(S.D.)-Horse Sculpture To Be Part Of International Exhibit

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 05/07/2013 10:34 AM



Photo: A masterpiece of Lakota sculpture, the Sioux Horse Effigy dance stick, ca. 1870, was probably carved to honor a wounded horse and is considered one of the greatest equine sculptures in the world. Carved out of wood, this three-foot-long sculpture is enhanced by its real horsehair mane and tail. Leather reins and bridle exhibit care with which this sculpture was made. The horse is also riddled with holes, bullet wounds. Red paint, blood, seems to seep from these wounds, suggesting that it died in battle. Blood also runs from the horse's mouth in the form of red horsehair. Its ears are backward slanting, showing fear and pain. The horse's elongated body and forward leaping motion suggest a leap from life to death. (Photo courtesy of the South Dakota State Historical Society)

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - One of the signature pieces held by the South Dakota State Historical Society is about to hit the road as part of an exhibit of American Indian art that will be displayed in Paris, New York and Kansas City.

The wooden carving of a horse that appears to be dying of battle wounds will be included in an exhibit featuring American Indian art from the Great Plains.

Historical Society Director Jay D. Vogt (voht) says the carving is believed to have been made by a Lakota artist or warrior in about 1870.

It will be part of a 140-piece exhibit that will be displayed at the Quai (kway) Branly Museum in Paris, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City.