

Ward + Blake Architects Sponsors Famous Designer Jacket Exhibit

August 25, 2011

Nashville's Manuel presents State Jacket Series at Western Design Conference



Decorated state

jackets from the “Manuel Star Spangled Couture” collection.

Jackson, Wyoming – August 25, 2011 – **Question:** What do Ward + Blake Architects have in common with Elvis?

Answer: Manuel, also known as the “Rhinestone Rembrandt,” who has designed for Elvis, the Beatles, and the Rolling Stones to name a few. Ward + Blake Architects is sponsoring the celebrity costume designer’s visit to Jackson Hole for the Western Design Conference.

“We appreciate fine design,” says Tom Ward of Ward + Blake. “We were thrilled to be part of bringing Manuel to Jackson Hole and to give people the opportunity to see his amazing work.”

The State Jacket Collection will be on view during the Western Design Conference fashion show on Thursday, September 8, 2011, and then will move to the Western Design

Conference Exhibit + Sale at Snow King Events Center, Friday – Sunday, Sept. 9 – 11, 2011. Manuel will share stories of his past and experiences working with the stars in a special presentation on Saturday, September 10 at 1 p.m. at Snow King Events Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Manuel has designed for every big name country star, including Johnny Cash, Elvis, and Patsy Cline, and the costume designer's creations can be found in museums across the country including the Smithsonian, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and the Country Music Hall of Fame. In addition, Manuel has designed for big names in the rock and roll world including the Beatles, Gram Parsons, and the Rolling Stones. "We're thrilled that Manuel and his State Jacket Collection will join the 2011 Western Design Conference Exhibit and Sale," says WDC Director Allison Merritt. "It's a rare opportunity to see his amazing work and to meet this incredible designer."

Manuel's State Jacket Collection is a traveling exhibit that has been featured at venues including Nashville's Frist Center for the Visual Arts and the National Cowgirl Museum. Manuel, who goes by a single name, began the series of jackets – created over a period of 10 years – in the 90s as a tribute to a country he immigrated to 30 years earlier. The series includes an embroidered suit jacket dedicated to each state, fashioned in the patriotic color scheme of red, white and blue, and featuring handmade silver buttons bearing the state's initials. In addition, Manuel has partnered with the master bootmakers at The Tres Outlaws Boot Company in El Paso, Texas, who have created a pair of handcrafted boots to showcase with each of the 50 jackets.

Ward + Blake's use of a 'New West' architectural vocabulary epitomizes the growing Western Modernism movement. The Jackson Hole residential and commercial architects capture the authentic, independent spirit of the West while taking regional design in a fresh and modern direction. The Jackson, Wyo., residential and commercial architecture firm is known for its award-winning eco-friendly innovations and received the Wyoming AIA Award of Excellence. For additional information, visit www.wardblakearchitects.com, or call Mitch Blake at 307-733-6867.

Media Contact: Darla Worden, WordenGroup Strategic Public Relations, 307.734.5335.
darla@wordenpr.com

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