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**SALT LAKE CITY LAUNCH OF NEW BIOGRAPHY  
OF PABLO O'HIGGINS, A UTAH-BORN  
MEXICAN MURALIST AND STUDENT OF LECONTE STEWART**

(Salt Lake City April 2, 2010) The Salt Lake City launch of *Becoming Pablo O'Higgins*, the first critical biography (in English *or* Spanish) of Utah artist turned Mexican muralist Pablo O'Higgins will be held:

Friday, April 16 on Gallery Stroll, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Williams Fine Art • 200 East South Temple

Author Susan Vogel will speak at 6:30 p.m. about her book

Donna Poulton, Ph.D., will speak about the influence of Utah artists on O'Higgins

Born Paul Higgins in Salt Lake City in 1904, O'Higgins attended Salt Lake City public schools including Irving, Longfellow, and East High School, where he studied with renowned artists James T. Harwood and LeConte Stewart. At age 20, he boldly traveled to Mexico, a country still reeling from its 10-year bloody revolution. There, he became an assistant to Diego Rivera. He remained in Mexico for the rest of his life, but kept his United States citizenship until 1961, enabling him to produce murals and graphic art in both countries.

O'Higgins, who died in Mexico in 1983 (Mexico gave him a state funeral), is one of the most recognized members of the second generation of the Mexican School artists, those who began as assistants to the *tres grandes*: Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and José Clemente Orozco.

LeConte Stewart's influence can be seen in both O'Higgins's art and in his approach to being an artist. Donna Poulton, Ph.D., of the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, will discuss artwork by LeConte Stewart and other Utah artists in the gallery and the influence of O'Higgins's early years in Utah on his art.

Though benefitting from his art education in Utah, O'Higgins distanced himself from his childhood, perhaps to keep secret his father's involvement as an assistant attorney general in the 1915 execution in Utah of miner and now labor martyr Joe Hill.

O'Higgins has become an inspiration to artists in the U.S. and Latin America. His portrait appears in a mural in San Diego's Chicano Park, the largest collection of Chicano murals in the U.S., alongside portraits of Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Che Guevara, Emiliano Zapata and the Virgin of Guadalupe. Today, O'Higgins is admired not only for his art but for his love of Mexico and his determination to bridge the two countries through art.

## WHAT SCHOLARS ARE SAYING

*With this masterful work, which involved very serious research and a deep understanding of the cultural and political environment that prevailed on both sides of the border in the times of Pablo O'Higgins, Susan Vogel has made a very important contribution for a better understanding between the U.S. and Mexico.*

Salvador Jiménez, former Mexican Consul to Utah

*Exhaustively researched, *Becoming Pablo O'Higgins* examines the complex personality of Pablo O'Higgins and his participation in the vibrant and often volatile twentieth-century political art movement in Mexico. ... Unraveling O'Higgins's true identity; this fascinating narrative weaves together some of the most powerful personalities in international politics and art.*

Donna L. Poulton, Ph.D., Curator, Pablo O'Higgins: Works on Paper, Utah Museum of Fine Arts, 2010; co-author, *Painters of Utah's Canyons and Deserts*; co-author, *Utah Art, Utah Artists: 150 Years Survey*; and co-author, *Painters of Utah's Mountain and Basin Regions*

## ABOUT PINCE-NEZ PRESS and WILLIAMS FINE ART

Pince-Nez Press is a small, independent book publisher established in San Francisco in 1995. It is publisher of *God's Brothel*, *Surfing the CIA*, *Backless*, and was the original publisher of *Confessions of a Slacker Mom*.

Williams Fine Art specializes in early Utah and Western artists as well as outstanding contemporary painters. [www.williamsfineart.com](http://www.williamsfineart.com).

- *Becoming Pablo O'Higgins* was funded in part by a grant from the Utah Humanities Council •

A full press kit is available at [www.pince-nez.com](http://www.pince-nez.com).