



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

PRELIMINARY ABSTRACTS

for

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

for the

International Mountmaking Forum

at the

Smithsonian

May 5-6, 2010

Animal mounts – how realistic do they need to be?

When an exhibit storyline calls for animal forms to support featured artifacts, the conventional approach involves the fiberglass casting shop or taxidermy studio. This poster illustrates the creation of alternative solutions for depicting horse, dog and bear in metal, acrylic and carved foam for ethnographic and historic displays. It examines how these animal forms convey a realistic impression while securely and unobtrusively highlighting the artifacts.

The poster will contain text and images describing the following examples:

Horse mounts

- Beaded horse mask (Ethafoam fully enclosed cushion type)
- Braided hide headstall (acrylic sheet head outline)
- Horse head for patent leather blinkers and bridle (Ethafoam)
- Adjustable metal frame for photography (pending permission to use)
- Taxidermy Indian pony, dressed
- Fibreglass charreria horse, dressed (pending permission to use)

Sled dog mounts

- Pet template for foam dogs (pending permission to use)
- Sled dogs (Ethafoam dogs with degraded glue lines)
- Sled dogs with dog blankets (Temporary exhibit foam mount)
- Sled dogs with dog blankets (Permanent gallery taxidermy mount)