



In this Nov 24, 1986, file photo, creator of the "Muppets" Jim Henson poses for a photo with Kermit the Frog in Los Angeles, Calif. — AP photos



File photo shows Kermit the Frog, left, and Miss Piggy arrive at the World Premiere of "Muppets Most Wanted," in Los Angeles.



In this Feb 6, 1984, file photo, Jim Henson with his "Muppets" pose for a photo at Henson's 69th Street office in New York.

## MUSEUM ASKS FANS OF KERMIT, ELMO TO HELP PAY FOR EXHIBIT

A museum is asking fans of Jim Henson's Muppets to help pay for an exhibition featuring original puppets of beloved characters like Elmo, Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog. The Museum of the Moving Image launched a Kickstarter campaign on Tuesday seeking \$40,000 to help preserve the puppets for posterity. "Jim Henson's work has meant so much to so many people, myself included," actor Neil Patrick Harris says in a video on the Kickstarter page. "His humor and inventiveness have inspired people to find their own creative voices."

The Queens museum owns hundreds of Henson puppets and

other objects including costumes and props, all donated by Henson's family in 2013. Henson died in 1990. Museum staff members are working to conserve the items along with Jim Henson's Creature Shop, which was founded by Henson in 1979 and carries on his work, and fine-arts conservators.

Curator Barbara Miller said the museum has never turned to crowdfunding before but it made sense for the Muppet exhibit "because the community of fans is so active." "This is one element of an effort to cross the finish line for fundraising," Miller said. Donors will get perks including T-shirts, artisanal chocolate and

naming rights to a puppet pedestal. Museum officials are hoping to open the exhibit this summer. Besides the puppets, the exhibit will feature rarely seen video footage and photographs going back to Henson's early work in television in the 1950s. A traveling exhibition using objects from the collection will open May 20 at Seattle's Museum of Pop Culture. — AP



View of the biggest mural in the world with 5,742 square meters, by Brazilian mural artist Eduardo Kobra, in Itapevi, metropolitan area of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

## Brazilian artist paints 'biggest' ever mural

Many painters struggle to get their work viewed but Brazilian street artist Eduardo Kobra won't have a problem—his most recent work is billed as the biggest in the world. The prolific Kobra takes as his canvas the sides of the Cacau Show factory on one of the main highways into Sao Paulo, and not just one side but wrapping around the corners. Still not quite finished, it shows the top half of an indigenous tribesman in a multicolored collage as he paddles through a great brown river of chocolate. The work connects the chocolate products inside the building to the traditions of far-off Amazonian cocoa farmers. Kobra already held the Guinness World Record for biggest spray paint mural in Rio de Janeiro and he says this one, at 61,354 square feet (5,700 square meters) is even bigger.

"People can pass by on the highway, even if they're going 100 kmh and they can still see what the message is on the wall," he told AFP. "The image shows one of the cocoa workers transporting cocoa in his boat. I've also turned the river into a river formed entirely of chocolate," he said. "It's the biggest mural I've ever

made," he said. "The mural above all is trying to show something of the workers and pay homage to them." Art is a little different when a large building is your sketchbook.

Kobra said he started off with as many as 10 different designs for the mural, all of them based on scenes from the Amazon's cocoa-rich regions. Once he settled on a design, he needed cranes to lift 12 platforms for his painting team who have joined him from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm over two months, with about two weeks left to go. Never mind brushes, palette and box of paints: they got through 4,000 spray cans and 300 gallons (1,080 liters) of enamel paint. Alexandre Costa, president of Cacau Show chocolate makers, said the work should remind people of what goes into every bar they unwrap. "I am really happy with the result of this work. It honors the cocoa workers. People who eat chocolate don't know what's behind this—the land where it's harvested and so on." — AFP



Brazilian mural artist Eduardo Kobra poses in front of his recent work "the biggest mural in the world".