



Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS

Taylor Museum
Bemis School of Art
Performing Arts

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75 DAYS FROM TODAY Fine Arts Center prepares for its 75th Anniversary on April 20

COLORADO SPRINGS (Feb. 4, 2011) – The [Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center](http://www.csfineartscenter.org) turns 75 on April 20, 2011, and the anniversary will be celebrated throughout the year.

Established in 1936, the Fine Arts Center is home to world-class art galleries, Broadway-worthy live theatre, and an art school for all ages. Built on the foundation of the prestigious Broadmoor Art Academy, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado's arts and cultural heritage. One of the first 16 institutions accredited by the American Association of Museums in 1971, the FAC offers the best in the world of visual arts via its permanent collection and travelling exhibitions, performing arts through the FAC Theatre Company, and arts education with the Bemis School of Art.

The Fine Arts Center's building is considered an architectural landmark in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register for Historical Places. In 2007, the FAC unveiled a \$28.6 million renovation and expansion.

As part of its 75th Anniversary celebration, the Fine Arts Center is pleased to present the **Martha Graham Dance Company on April 19, 2011**, performing in the SaGāJi Theatre in honor of the historic Martha Graham performance on the very same stage in 1936. The Dance Company will perform *Lamentation Variations*, a series of vignettes by contemporary choreographers that interpret the theme of the classic Graham piece, *Lamentation*, performed at the FAC in 1936, and *Steps in the Street*, also originally choreographed by Graham in 1936, among other pieces.

"When Martha Graham danced onstage at the Fine Arts Center back in 1936, it was a powerful statement about our position as a forward-looking, forward-thinking organization," said Sam Gappmayer, FAC President and CEO. "To have this world-renowned company perform 75 years later with new material as well as updated pieces from the original Fine Arts Center performance is a rare and wonderful opportunity."

The 75th Exhibitions will open on April 20. The FAC Permanent Collection features masterworks by such American artists as Richard Diebenkorn, Georgia O'Keeffe, Walt Kuhn, John Singer Sargent, Dale Chihuly, and artists associated with the Broadmoor Art Academy, as well as one of the strongest collections of Hispanic and American Indian art in the nation.

Over the years, the FAC established a national reputation for strengths in murals, lithography, Rocky Mountain regional, Modern American, Native American textiles, baskets, santos, retablos and more. The first-floor galleries will tell the story of the significant FAC permanent collection.

“No comprehensive story of Colorado art, which for much of the 20th Century was centered in Colorado Springs, can be told without including selections from the Fine Arts Center’s extensive collection,” write Kyle MacMillan of the *Denver Post*.

The second floor will feature ***History of Commerce***, a 10-panel mural by the internationally renowned Boardman Robinson. The mural was commissioned in 1929 by businessman Edgar J. Kaufmann, perhaps best known for his Pennsylvania home, *Fallingwater*, Frank Lloyd Wright’s architectural masterpiece built in 1936.

The panels – each measuring 8’ x 15’ – were originally displayed at the Kaufmann’s department store in downtown Pittsburgh; this will be the first time all 10 panels have been displayed together in decades.

Soon after completing the mural, Robinson moved to Colorado Springs and served as the director of the prestigious Broadmoor Art Academy, and its successor, the Fine Arts Center School, from 1930-1947.

For the anniversary, the FAC has commissioned Robinson student **Eric Bransby** to paint a mural celebrating the arts to be installed during the anniversary year. The finished work will measure 5’ x 27’.

MUSEUM

The Taylor Museum is named for FAC benefactor Alice Bemis Taylor, who gave the FAC the financial support to build the building and begin the endowment that sustains the organization to this day, as well as, her art history book collection and Southwestern Art.

- *Emilio Lobato: Mi Linda Soledad* (March)
- *Brett Weston in the East and West* (June)
- *Elevated Perspectives: Joellyn Duesberry Paintings* (July)

PERFORMING ARTS

The FAC Theatre Company will perform *The Women* written by Clare Boothe Luce and performed on Broadway in 1936.

- *The Women* (March 25-April 10)
- *1776* (May 13-June 5)
- Two outdoor concerts in Monument Valley Park
- Outdoor music at the FAC Courtyard

EDUCATION

The Bemis School of Art continues 91 years of arts education near the corner of Dale and Cascade.

- Family Adventure Days (monthly)
- Visiting Artist Workshops, including Monica Petty Aiello and George Sanchez
- Special 75th Anniversary Classes based on the work of Walt Kuhn, Georgia O’Keeffe, and others
- Lecture: Colorado Springs in 1936 (April 23, 2011)
- Symposium: Colorado’s Cultural Crossroads (July 29-30)

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