



# Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS

Taylor Museum  
Bemis School of Art  
Performing Arts

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WOUNDED WARRIORS

### Recovering military personnel participate in unique art classes

**COLORADO SPRINGS** (March 9, 2010) – A new generation of American combat veterans is returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan after being exposed to multiple traumatic events and creative expression is showing promise with hard-to-treat symptoms of combat stress.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) and Pikes Peak Behavioral Health Group (PPBHG) in January started an 11-week course titled "Military Creative Expressions." The FAC is hosting a media opportunity on **Tuesday, March 16, at 1 p.m.** Media are invited to see the artwork and hear soldiers speak about the therapeutic effects of creative expression.

"We have, for a very long time, talked about how we can serve and become more integrated with the military, especially Fort Carson," said Sam Gappmayer, FAC CEO/President. "My vision as it pertains to this particular program and collaboration would be to serve as many soldiers as would like to participate."

The courses are held at the FAC's Bemis School of Art, giving participants access to the best-available facilities and materials for their work. Instruction and curriculum is handled by PPBHG Art Therapy Instructor Kim Nguyen, who oversees and teaches PPBHG's creative program; and Barbara C. Tise, Inc., a private, psychotherapy practice owned and operated by Barbara Tise, provides clinical support during the class.

"This collaboration is part of our ongoing strategic plan to pull alongside of our military service members and their families and provide relevant, needed services in our community," said PPBHG CEO Morris L. Roth.

All participants are stationed at Fort Carson and suffer from a variety of physical and invisible wounds, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. Their feedback and other data is being collected to improve future courses and show the effectiveness of creative expression, which is understudied.

The program also has the potential to raise awareness and funds for programming. The artwork will be displayed at the FAC during **[Conflict | Resolution](#) (March 26 – June 20)** and auctioned at PPBHG's annual Heroes of Mental Health event later this year.