



Fine Arts Center
COLORADO SPRINGS

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOST TREASURES, RECENT ACQUISITIONS **New exhibits from the Fine Arts Center's Permanent collection**

COLORADO SPRINGS (April 11, 2008) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center has unveiled four new exhibits from its Permanent Collection, including treasures revived from years in storage and new acquisitions from contemporary artists. Curators Tariana Navas-Nieves and Blake Milteer plan to rotate works on display in the first floor galleries on an ongoing basis, keeping the Permanent Collection exhibitions fresh and interesting.

The four new galleries include Modern and Contemporary Native American art, Ecuadorian prints and Modern American art.

With all of these new exhibits, some items are rotating out of the galleries, including the stellar *Colorado Sublime*, an exhibit of historic Colorado landscapes from the Katherine and Dusty Loo Collection. These remarkable 19th and 20th century paintings, reflecting the beautiful and rugged nature of Colorado's Rocky Mountain landscape, will be on display until April 20.

On Saturday, April 12, the FAC will offer **free admission** to these galleries. Members of the Fine Arts Center receive free admission to the Permanent Collection every day, and this Saturday the general public will have the same opportunity to explore these renowned collections of American, Native American, and Hispanic art.

***Modern America* | Loo Family Gallery**

This gallery showcases many key works from the FAC's collection of Modern American art, including pieces by early American artists like **Arthur Dove**, **Marsden Hartley**, **Richard Diebenkorn** and **Robert Motherwell**; contemporary Colorado artists **Sushe Felix**, **Floyd Tunson**, **Pard Morrison** and **Louis Recchia**; and an outstanding figure study by local artist **Lewis Lee Tilley**.

One new acquisition on display is Louis Recchia's freestanding screen, *The Spirit and the Muse*. Among Colorado's most prominent contemporary artists, Recchia has achieved national recognition for his work. "This is one of Recchia's strongest works, with simultaneous references to mythological wolf figures, the Roman god Janus, and the atomic bomb" says Blake Milteer, FAC Curator of 19th-21st Century American Art. "It is a wonderful addition to our growing collection of important contemporary regional art."

The exhibit also includes two recent acquisitions from Colorado Springs artist **Pard Morrison**: *Flower* and *The Cape in My Closet*. A Colorado Springs artist, Morrison is best known for his minimal aesthetic. The horizontal

orientation and vertical bars of color in *The Cape in My Closet* recall aspects of the landscape, while the title refers to the secret life of a superhero or perhaps something more sinister.

***Inspired by Tradition* | Sallie E. Duff Gallery**

"The twenty-three artists featured in this gallery embody the spirit of Modern and Contemporary Native American art, a movement that began in the 1960s" says FAC Curator of Hispanic and Native American Art Tariana Navas-Nieves. "Artists such as **Fritz Scholder** and **T.C. Cannon** have represented American Indian life in the context of the modern world, a departure from the 19th century depictions of a romanticized noble savage recorded by the 'white man.'"

This stunning selection of prints highlights a medium that unlike pottery, basketry and weaving, was not traditionally associated with Indian works. These striking works demonstrate the strength of American Indian cultural traditions and the lasting legacy that continues to shape and enrich the artistic environment of Native American generations working today.

***Looking Forward/Looking Back* | The Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson Foundation Gallery**

This selection of works from the 19th and 20th centuries shows a transition in American art, as artists held fast to purely traditional subject matter, but began to adopt new painting techniques derived from European precedents, especially Impressionism. Increasingly vibrant colors and expressive brushstrokes can be seen in depictions of places like Garden of the Gods, scenes of American labor and spirituality, and American personalities like **John Singer Sargent's** portrait of Elsie Palmer, daughter of General William Palmer.

The gallery includes another masterwork by John Singer Sargent, *Portrait of Count Albert de Belleruche*, which is on exhibit for the first time in many years.

Many of the landscape paintings in this gallery were created by artists of the Broadmoor Academy which flourished in Colorado Springs from 1919 to 1945. The Academy was an important cultural center in the Rocky Mountain West and the predecessor to the Fine Arts Center, attracting important nationally-renowned artists such as **John Carlson**, **Robert Reid**, **Ernest Lawson**, **Archie Musick**, and **Eric Bransby**.

***Galo Galecio: Bajo la Linea del Ecuador (Below the Equatorial Line)* | Marguerite and Otto Manley Gallery**

This series of prints, created by **Galo Galecio** in 1946, is on display for the first time since being accessioned by the FAC in 1953. Curator Tariana Navas-Nieves discovered the historically significant collection, complete in its original portfolio, while studying the FAC's Hispanic collection. "We have a tremendously rich collection of modern and contemporary works from throughout Latin America that, along with our Southwestern works, will undoubtedly distinguish the Fine Arts Center," said Navas-Nieves. "This collection by Galo Galecio is one of many exciting discoveries we've made."

Widely considered the prominent Ecuadorian artist's best work, these prints from engraved plates depict scenes of village life and the tropical landscape of coastal towns of Ecuador. Galecio used deeply poignant life portraits to make statements about the political and social state of Ecuador, drawing attention to people he believed had been forgotten. "The force of these images makes Galecio one of the greatest exponents of the Expressionist and Realist movements that dominated the artistic scene in Ecuador from the 1930s through the 1950s," says Navas-Nieves. Galecio's work is in numerous international collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York. All interpretative materials for the exhibit, including the web page, are available in English and Spanish.

The Fine Arts Center's Permanent Collection is sponsored by FAC Annual Sponsor: El Pomar Foundation, Timothy C. Hoiles, La Plata Investments, LLC, and La Casita Patio Café.

Photo Requests: Contact Melissa Thompson at mthompson@csfineartscenter.org or by calling 719.477.4350.

Admission, Hours

The Fine Arts Center is located on the NW corner of Dale and Cascade. The FAC is open Tuesday-Friday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Saturday. Admission for the Permanent Collection Galleries is free for FAC Members and \$7.50 for non-members. For more information, visit csfineartscenter.org.