



Fine Arts Center
COLORADO SPRINGS

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STYLING THE MODERN Wearable art by Matisse, Calder featured at FAC MODERN

COLORADO SPRINGS (April 18, 2008) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center will debut a new exhibition at the FAC MODERN on Saturday, May 10, called *Styling the Modern: Fine Art Meets Fashion*.

The exhibition displays the scarves or “artist squares” developed by Zika and Lida Ascher, Czech refugees in London, who started a textile business in 1939. After a period of “prolonged drabness” during World War II, the Aschers broke the mold by inviting the most prominent artists of the day – Marie Laurencin, Henry Moore, Henri Matisse, Jean Cocteau, Alexander Calder and others – to work with them in the screen-printing workshop. The grand-scale scarves, measuring 3 ft. x 3 ft., were printed in limited editions and the screens were destroyed after printing.

“The scarves are an extraordinary combination of fine art, fashion and printmaking,” said FAC Curator Tariana Navas-Nieves. “They represent the idea that good design should revive the spirit and be made available to all, not just the elite. The variety and brilliance of the scarves showcased the personal flare of the wearer and revived the fashion industry.”

These stunning works of wearable art are from the collection of Jill A. Wiltse and H. Kirk Brown III. “I am thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase these beautiful works, and to work with such dedicated collectors as Jill and Kirk Brown.”

Experience Beauty

- May 1 1st Thursday Tasting ... 5-8 p.m.
- May 2 ***Life as a Legend: Marilyn Monroe***
Opening Celebration ... 5-8 p.m.

Mother's Day Weekend

- May 9 ***Beauty and the Beast***
Opening Night ... 8 p.m.
- May 10 ***Gallery Trek*** ... 10:30 a.m.
Styling the Modern
Fashion Show / Opening Celebration
at the FAC MODERN ... 1 p.m.
Beauty and the Beast ... 8 p.m.
- May 11 ***Café 36 Returns!*** ... 11 a.m.
Treat Mom to brunch on the Patio
Beauty and the Beast ... 2 p.m.
Mother's Day Sale ... 10 – 5 p.m.

Styling the Modern, guest-curated by Shanna Shelby, features a series of approximately 20 of these vibrant scarves designed by various modern artists.

Mary Chandler of the *Rocky Mountain News*, who has seen the collection, writes, "(This collection) shines a light on a firm that assembled celebrated artists to turn fashion statements into something much more meaningful and decidedly timeless."

FASHION SHOW AT THE MODERN

For this exhibition, the FAC will present an Opening Celebration like no other, complete with a fashion show right in the middle of the Plaza of the Rockies. The fashion show will feature 12 models with hair and makeup by **Veda Salon** and clothing and accessories provided by **Lulu**, a downtown Colorado Springs boutique.

The fashion trend-setters in Denver have already taken notice. The Cat's Pajamas, a fashion blogger at westword.com wrote:

"And here's yet another reason to love the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center: *Styling the Modern: Fine Art Meets Fashion*. The FAC is such a cultural treasure that many people in Denver are not familiar with. During Colorado's real art heyday – 30s, 40s and 50s – most of the great work was coming out of the Springs, in general, and the FAC in particular."

Styling the Modern: Fine Art Meets Fashion

Opening Celebration and Fashion Show

FAC MODERN | Plaza of the Rockies

Date: Saturday, May 10th
Gallery Hours: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Lunch Reservations: Contact NOSH at 719.635.NOSH
Fashion Show: Start times are 1, 2 p.m.

There is no charge for the fashion show portion of this event.

Regular fees will apply for gallery admittance.

The exhibition runs through October 4.

Styling the Modern: Fine Art Meets Fashion is sponsored by El Pomar Foundation, Nor'wood Development Group, Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, Colorado Springs Independent, LuLu, Veda Salon & Spa, and Timothy C. Hoiles.