



Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS

Taylor Museum
Bemis School of Art
Performing Arts

30 West Dale Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903
tel: 719.634.5581 fax: 719.634.0570
www.csfineartscenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Charlie Snyder, Director of Communications
719.477.4316; csnyder@csfineartscenter.org

PHOTOGRAPHY GIANT Brett Weston exhibition to open at the Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS (May 17, 2011) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center will present ***Brett Weston in the East and West***, from June 4 – Aug. 21 in the North Events and Seagraves Galleries.

Brett Weston followed in the footsteps of his father, renowned photographer Edward Weston, in forwarding recognition of photography as a fine art in the 20th century.

Brett Weston in the East and West

June 4 – Aug. 21, 2011

Admission is free for FAC Members; \$10 for non-members

Born and raised in California, Weston took the opportunity in 1947 to shoot the East Coast, thanks to a Guggenheim Fellowship. This exhibition of 60 photographs coincides with the centennial of Weston's birth and contrasts photographs he made in urban areas of the East Coast and wild regions of the West.

"His masterfully printed photographs convey his intimate understanding of Modern abstraction and its ability to inspire viewers to look at our world in new and intensive ways," said Blake Milteer, the Museum Director of the Fine Arts Center and Curator of American Art.

"The Brett Weston Archive has generously loaned us some of the most exquisitely printed photographs of the 20th century," Milteer said. "This is fine art photography at its best."

Weston began his career in photography at age 13 in 1925, before most of the art world accepted his medium as a fine art. His father removed Brett from school and took him to Mexico, where he became his father's apprentice. Surrounded by revolutionary artists of the day, such as Tina Modotti, Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, and influenced by the striking contrast of life in Mexico, Brett began making photographs.

Soon his work got noticed. The curator of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Van Deren Coke, stated that "Brett Weston was the child genius of American photography."

His father believed that by the age of 14, Brett was doing better work than he was doing himself at age 30 and privately credited his son with influencing his own work. The elder Weston wrote, "Brett and I ... have the same kind of vision. Brett didn't like this; naturally enough, he felt that even when he had done the thing first, the public would not know and he would be blamed for imitating me."

Weston travelled extensively and created photographs that reflect his intense studies of ways in which abstract forms can represent the identity of particular places.

"Brett Weston indeed extended the language of photographic abstraction that his father had begun," said Milteer. "Through the 1940s, '50s, and '60s in particular, Weston's intensive abstraction of western American landscapes and natural features was visually aligned with the broad investigations of pure abstraction in painting and sculpture that defined mid-20th century artistic innovation. His absolute control of the photographic process in order to achieve specific results placed him alongside the likes of Ansel Adams and Minor White as they successfully attained widespread recognition for photography as a fine art."

Brett Weston in the East and West is sponsored by El Pomar Foundation and *The Gazette*.

Fine Arts Center

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.

#####