



Fine Arts Center
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Bold New Era Begins Rediscovering the Fine Arts Center's permanent collection

COLORADO SPRINGS (July 17, 2007) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center begins a bold new era for its permanent collection with the Extremely Grand Opening, Aug. 2-5. For the first time in FAC history, selections from all areas of the collection – American, Native American, and Latin American art; much of it unseen for years – will be exhibited simultaneously.

The FAC permanent collection's roots date back to the very beginning of the institution. The Taylor Museum was built, in part, to house founder Alice Bemis Taylor's personal Native American and Hispanic art. Elizabeth Sage Hare, another founder, favored Modern American and European Art. Both styles found their way into the collection. Some 71 years later, the FAC collecting mission remains the same.

"The FAC collecting mission focuses on art produced in the Americas," said Blake Milteer, FAC Curator of 19th-21st Century American Art. "We are committed to celebrating the existing quality of the collection, while expanding and strengthening our collections in all areas."

Most recently, the FAC expanded its permanent collection with the gift of Katherine and Dusty Loo Collection of historic Colorado landscapes and a purchase of Dale Chihuly glass sculptures and paintings, which will be exhibited alongside treasures from the FAC prestigious Native American collection.

"The opportunities for exciting presentations highlighting such a superb collection are endless," said Tariana Navas-Nieves, FAC Curator of Hispanic and Native American Art. "This is only the beginning of many thought-provoking and beautiful exhibitions."

The first-level permanent collection galleries will house the following genres and works; many of which are old favorites that have been under wraps since 2003 and some collected in the earliest years after the Museum's founding that haven't been on display in decades:

***Colorado Sublime* | Blessing Family Gallery**

Colorado Sublime features a remarkable gift by collectors Dusty and Kathy Loo. This exhibition represents the generosity of these community leaders and their continuing commitment to the Fine Arts Center. *Colorado Sublime* features an unrivaled historic collection of 19th and early 20th century paintings inspired by our unique Rocky Mountain landscape.

***Looking Forward/Looking Back* | Sallie E. Duff Gallery**

The work in this gallery spans the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In this era, American artists held fast to purely American subject matter, but began to adopt new painting techniques derived from European precedents, especially Impressionism. Recognizable American personalities like Martha Graham and Elsie Palmer, places like Garden of the Gods, and scenes of American labor and spirituality were rendered with vibrant colors and ever-loosening brushstrokes.

Many of these paintings were created by artists of the Broadmoor Academy which flourished in Colorado Springs from 1919 to 1945 and was an important cultural center in the Rocky Mountain West. The academy attracted important nationally renowned artists, many of whom taught here for a time. Painters John Carlson and Robert Reid were the first teachers at the Broadmoor Academy, and Carlson was its first director. Other prominent artists associated with the Academy were Birger Sandzen, Ernest Lawson, and Boardman Robinson.

***Transfixed: Photography from the Permanent Collection* | Marguerite and Otto Manley Gallery**

Transfixed represents our commitment to collecting and exhibiting the art of photography. Early 20th century photographers such as Colorado Springs's own Laura Gilpin helped to secure their medium's place among the finest of traditional art forms like painting, while today's photographers such as Gus Foster continue to expand photography's boundaries through their large, bold images.

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

By the early 1900s, American artists had been introduced to the visual language of European Modern art. Cubism in particular offered American artists such as John Marin, Arthur Dove, and Marsden Hartley a new form of expression with its fractured picture planes. While early 20th century Modern artists kept one foot in recognizable images, later artists such as Richard Diebenkorn and Robert Motherwell took their paintings a bold step further into pure abstraction by eliminating identifiable objects and scenes in favor of shapes and colors that they believed could inspire pure emotional response in the viewer. In much of today's art, the concept, or idea is just as important as the art's visual attributes.

Arte Americas: Selections from the Hispanic Collection

The Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson Foundation Gallery

Works by some of the most vibrant and eloquent artistic voices in Hispanic America are featured in this gallery. This talented group of artists explores issues of race, religion, politics, and popular culture. *Arte Americas* reflects the rich art and cultural diversity that exists in the Western hemisphere, and the Fine Arts Center's inclusive vision and dedication to the art of the Americas within a global perspective.

***Inspired by Tradition: Native American art and Dale Chihuly* | Lane Family Gallery**

Dale Chihuly's breathtaking work of Chandeliers, Persians and Macchias enliven spaces all over the world. The development of his creative process and complex technique began with works such as his famous Navajo Cylinders and Basket series. This presentation highlights those seminal works inspired by Native American art, specifically Native American textiles and basketry.

***Colorado Artists* | East Events Gallery**

A bold selection of paintings by renowned Colorado artists such as Floyd Tunson, Tony Ortega and Chuck Forsman shows the FAC's commitment to the great artistic production of the Rocky Mountain region.

ABOUT THE FINE ARTS CENTER

Founded in 1936, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre, and arts education center. Visit www.csfineartscenter.org.

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.

