



Fine Arts Center
COLORADO SPRINGS

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EDIE AND WALT

Two exhibitions offer a provocative view into the history of the West

COLORADO SPRINGS (Sept. 16, 2008) – The Fine Arts Center is pleased to announce two exhibitions shown side-by-side, offering a provocative view into the history of the American West through the eyes of both an early 21st century photographer and an early 20th century painter.

The exhibitions open Thursday, Oct. 2, during a special Opening Celebration/First Thursday Tasting from 5 – 8 p.m. (See the box to the right.)

Place and Time: *Reenactment Pageant Photographs by Edie Winograde* features photography of modern-day reenactments of defining moments in the American West, such as Lewis and Clark's expedition, the Battle of the Little Big Horn, and the Battle of San Jacinto. Local groups from across the U.S. act out a wide range of historical episodes. Drawing on historical facts, myths and legends, they contain the specific history of a place filtered through current perceptions.

Recently relocated from New York, the Denver-based artist has received numerous awards and has work in a variety of collections, including the US Embassy Permanent Collection in Kazakhstan. Michael Paglia of Denver's *Westword* calls her "a sophisticated addition to the (Denver art) scene."

A Very Special Night at the Fine Arts Center

Thursday, Oct. 2

Opening Celebration for two new exhibitions *and* First Thursday Tasting

5 – 8 p.m.

- **First Thursday Tasting** of wines paired with hors d'oeuvres starting at 5 p.m.
- **Gallery tours** with FAC Curator Blake Milteer, artist Edie Winograde at 6 p.m.
- ***Promises Trio*** playing jazz in the Deco Lounge from 5-8 p.m.
- **Kelly Jeppesen**, former Colorado Springs Philharmonic and Oregon Symphony violinist, is performing selections from his CD, *Full Circle*, on the Glass Corridor Landing at 7 p.m.

\$20 for FAC members,
\$25 for non-members

Walt Kuhn's series of paintings, ***An Imaginary History of the West***, depicts the artist's willfully romanticized vision of the American West, formed largely from the Western novels that fascinated him from

childhood. His colorful scenes of barroom fights, Indian battles and mining camps were painted from memory from material gathered out of books about the pioneer west.

Painted between 1918 and 1920, these paintings are among Kuhn's most successful combinations of Modern art styles, derived from Cézanne and Picasso, with a uniquely American subject matter. This 29-painting suite from the FAC permanent collection captures the romance of the old West without attempting to be realistic.

Edie Winograde

Winograde photographs modern-day reenactments of defining moments in the American West, but while the reenactments are staged events, they are not choreographed for Winograde's lens.

"Though my photographs represent a constructed reality, these pageants would take place regardless of my decision to photograph them," Winograde said. "My interest in these events—aside from the visual appeal of the extravagant theatrics—is to underscore their quality of mimicry and déjà vu."

The resulting images capture the passion and artifice of the reenactments, or "pageants."

By representing both the present-day reenactments and the historical events themselves, *Place and Time* blurs the boundaries between then and now. This intersection of past and present connects our modern experience with a collective memory of legendary events – a memory often rooted in Western paintings, novels and B-movies.

"Edie Winograde's large color photographs create a wonderfully complex thread between the 21st century American west and its 19th century past, while Walt Kuhn's early 20th century paintings bridge the west's romance with his distinctively Modern style," said Blake Milteer, FAC Curator of American Art.

Walt Kuhn

Among the most important of early 20th century American artists, Walt Kuhn was an early advocate of European Modern art in America and integrated its influence into his own art. While perhaps best known for his portraits of circus and vaudeville entertainers, Kuhn painted a wide variety of subjects throughout his life. He destroyed many of his canvases, saving only those that met his own strict standards.

The fact that he saved his *Imaginary History* paintings shows his regard for the series; he even bought back several pieces that had previously sold in order to keep the group intact. After his death in 1949, Kuhn's widow and daughter presented *Imaginary History of the West* to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, fulfilling his desire that the series belong to a museum in the West.

Place and Time: Reenactment Pageant Photographs by Edie Winograde and Walt Kuhn: Imaginary History of the West are sponsored by the El Pomar Foundation and Ann and Gary Bradley.

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