



Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS

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Bemis School of Art
Performing Arts

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09/10 FAC EXHIBITIONS

Eclectic gallery offerings in store for Fine Arts Center patrons

COLORADO SPRINGS (Sept. 22, 2009) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center’s 2009/2010 exhibition offerings cover many styles, a myriad of media and dozens of subjects, topics and points of view, but the one constant in this schedule is the concept of community connection.

The FAC – with its new CEO, Sam Gappmayer, and curators, Blake Milteer and Tariana Navas-Nieves – is continuing a long-standing tradition of presenting exhibitions of the highest possible standard. In addition to showing art of national and international reputation, the FAC will, in the coming year, mount a number of projects that touch on issues of specific relevance to the immediate region.

The FAC will present ***NASA / ART: 50 Years of Exploration***, organized by NASA, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Air and Space Museum, this December. This exhibition has special relevance to the community given the large number of aerospace industries based in the Springs, in a year the Pikes Peak Library District celebrates space with its All Pikes Peak Reads initiative. Along with the many great works of art in this exhibition, the FAC has a tremendous line-up of ancillary programming from an innovative, site-specific video installation, to side exhibits by Colorado Springs legend Eric Bransby and Denver artists Monica Petty Aiello and Vance Kirkland as well as a film series, lectures, and special Bemis classes and workshops.

“It’s the mystery of space and the mysteries found in space that have been intriguing ideas,” said Kirkland. “The fact I am trying to paint something I do not know exists in a tangible way. I was likewise thrilled to hear (Pulitzer Prize astronomer) Carl Sagan say that the only other type of person in an endeavor to which his kind of scientist could relate, is the creative artist, mostly the painter.”

In October of 2008, Sam Gappmayer became the new FAC CEO/President. He immediately went to work on building a multidisciplinary program based on a theme of consequence to the Colorado Springs community. In the spring of 2010, the FAC will explore the concept of ***Conflict / Resolution*** via visual arts, performing arts and education. Colorado Springs has a large military presence with Army and Air Force bases; active duty soldiers are deployed to dangerous duty around the globe, and when they return home they seek resolution. With this program, the FAC intends to serve as a relevant focal point for engaging dialogue within our community.

The exhibition schedule begins in September with two exhibitions that explore the landscape tradition and one that delves into cultural politics. The landscape painting shows feature the artistry of four renowned contemporary artists from throughout the Americas (***Personal Paradise***) and Broadmoor Art Academy-era stalwarts (***At the Foot of the Colorado Rockies***) with the panoramic photography of Peruvian artist Diego Lama (***BOLD***).

The exhibition season ends in July with three singular artists, who are giants and innovators in their fields: South African **William Kentridge**, who creates amazing stop-motion videos and has earned a solo exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; **Gib Singleton**, a religious sculpture artist considered a modern master in the tradition of Rodin and Donatello with works in the Vatican Museum collection; and **Earl Biss**, a member of the Crow Nation, whose compelling paintings changed the face of Native American art.

2009/2010 FAC Exhibitions

Personal Paradise: Contemporary Perspectives on Landscape Painting

Sept. 11 – Dec. 6, 2009 | *El Pomar Gallery*

Showcasing four artists who create landscape works as an avenue to express very personal connections to nature, *Personal Paradise* will feature renowned rancher-cattleman artist from Montana, Theodore Waddell; American Indian artist Kay WalkingStick; Eric Pérez from Mexico; and Argentinean Julia Fernandez-Pol. Each artist brings a dramatically different personal perspective to their portrayals of the natural world, but their shared value of the land unites them thematically.

BOLD: Photography by Diego Lama

Sept. 11 – Dec. 6, 2009 | *Steiner Gallery*

This series of six large, panoramic photographs from Peruvian artist Diego Lama were taken in Lima in 2007 and feature dramatic, theatrical atmospheres, emphasizing a contrast between the bodies and the perfectly organized spaces. Lama describes the series as a testimony about the cultural politics in Peru. The spaces he chose to photograph are all part of cultural institutions of restricted access.

At the Foot of the Colorado Rockies: Art from the Moffett Collection

Sept. 25 – Nov. 15, 2009 | *North Events, Seagraves Galleries*

The nationally-recognized collection of Jim and Virginia Moffett is comprised of a visionary selection of 19th and 20th century Colorado artists and subjects. Many of the artists were based in Colorado Springs prior to World War II. Approximately 50 paintings, drawings, and prints by artists including Charles Bunnell, Thomas Hart Benton, Frank Mechau, Ethel and Jenne Magafan, Boardman Robinson, Birger Sandzén, Elisabeth Spalding, Lawrence Barrett, Ila Mae McAfee, and Edgar Britton.

NASA | ART: 50 Years of Exploration

Dec. 19, 2009 – March 7, 2010 | *El Pomar Gallery*

NASA's historic triumphs and pioneering legacy are well known to millions, but the inspiring rocket launches, moon landings and planetary explorations also have had an impact on the imaginations of America's leading artists. As the space agency turned 50 last fall, the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) launched a national tour of *NASA | ART 50 Years of Exploration*, featuring 73 works from those artists. The exhibition is organized by SITES and NASA in cooperation with the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.

NASA / ART features nearly five decades of creations by artists as diverse as Annie Leibovitz, Nam June Paik, Norman Rockwell, Andy Warhol and William Wegman. Drawn from the collections of NASA and the National Air and Space Museum, the exhibition includes drawings, photographs, sculpture and other art forms and media. These works—ranging from the illustrative to the abstract—offer unparalleled insight into the private and personal moments, triumphant victories and tragic accidents that form the storied history of NASA.

Mike Laur and Rick Mazzola: *Looking Up*

Dec. 19, 2009 – March 7, 2010 | *Steiner Gallery*

Looking Up is an exhilarating site-specific video work created for the Fine Arts Center's celebration of space exploration. Laur and Mazzola have created a video installation that will transform the museum's Steiner Family Gallery into an environment that helps restore our attention to what Laur describes as "a tiny slice of the story that's been going on for over 14 billion years. Anchored to the Earth by unyielding gravity and the bonds of life, the heavens are where we go to dream, to imagine ourselves far, far away. Looking up, we all understand, yet we know so little."

Monica Petty Aiello: *Frozen / Inferno*

Dec. 19, 2009 – March 7, 2010 | *Seagraves Gallery*

The geology of Jupiter's moons Europa and Io inform Denver artist Monica Petty Aiello's *Frozen/Inferno* as well as her dialogues with noted space scientists involved with the Voyager, Galileo, Cassini and New Horizons missions. Aiello's paintings are composed of layer upon layer of mixed-media - constructed like strata to emulate the moons' geomorphology. She uses acrylic, paper, ink, gel, fiber, heat, air, gravity and water in attempts to convey and contrast their fascinating terrain.

Vance Kirkland: *Nebulae and Explosions in Space*

Dec. 19, 2009 – March 7, 2010 | *North Events Gallery*

Vance Kirkland (1904-1981) began his Nebula abstractions in 1954. At the time, Kirkland's paintings were closely aligned with the visual language of Abstract Expressionism and his images of cosmic phenomena were derived more from his imagination than from photographic sources. Kirkland's wonder and respect for humanity's capacity and necessity for exploration found form in his paintings, but he recognized their affinity with scientific inspiration.

Eric Bransby: *The History of Navigation*

Dec. 19, 2009 – March 7, 2010 | *Glass Corridor*

In 1968, a year prior to the first moon landing, nationally-renowned Colorado Springs artist Eric Bransby created a 30-foot long mural that depicts significant moments in the history of navigation from nautical voyages to space travel. The mural was originally commissioned for the United States Air Force Planetarium and will be on loan to the Fine Arts Center from the Air Force Academy.

Conflict | Resolution

March 27 – June 20, 2010 | *All Second-Floor Galleries*

The Fine Arts Center will explore the concept of *Conflict | Resolution*, a multidisciplinary project within the FAC's three main areas of focus: visual arts, performing arts and education. Conflict is as personal as domestic abuse and as global as war. How do we find resolution? These are themes that resonate in our community; this is a collective experience. The FAC envisions examining these themes through art, such as the dramatic Arthur Miller play, *All My Sons*, and a variety of visual national and international artists, plus Bemis classes, lectures and a film series.

Gib Singleton: Religious and Spiritual Works

July 10 – Nov. 14, 2010 | *Steiner Gallery*

Gib Singleton is considered one of the most important bronze sculptors living today. The crucifix on the crozier carried by the late Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI is the work of Singleton, and another of his crosses rests next to the Shroud of Turin. Singleton assisted in the restoration of Michelangelo's Pieta in the Vatican Museum. His work is represented in the collections of Museum of Modern Art, the Vatican Museum and the State of Israel. The FAC will exhibit a selection of Singleton's religious and spiritual bronze works.

Earl Biss

July 10 – Nov. 14, 2010 | *North Events, Seagraves Galleries*

This exhibition will feature a selection of paintings by prominent American Indian artist Earl Biss (Crow). Biss was a significant contributor to the explosion of Southwestern Art in the last half of the 20th century, and particularly for the rise of contemporary Native American Art. Biss is nationally recognized for his compelling depictions of Plains Indian horsemen, landscapes and changes in seasons. The distinctive textured and energetic brushwork and sensuous atmospheric light of his paintings is reminiscent of the French Impressionists. Earl Biss's paintings are in museum collections around the world.

William Kentridge

July 24 – Oct. 24, 2010 | *El Pomar Gallery*

South African artist William Kentridge creates works that exist somewhere between film, drawing, and theater and sometimes as a combination of all three. Kentridge's drawings and stop-motion animated videos have a subtly reflective political undertone, often investigating the cultural dualities of South Africa and the artist's birth city of Johannesburg. This exhibition focuses on Kentridge's drawings, but also includes a selection of sculpture and video art.

Fine Arts Center

The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, established in 1936, is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre and arts education school. Built on the foundation of the prestigious Broadmoor Art Academy, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado's arts and cultural heritage. One of 16 charter members of the American Association of Museums, 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 FAC 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. For more information, visit csfineartscenter.org.

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