



Fine Arts Center  
COLORADO SPRINGS

Taylor Museum  
Bemis School of Art  
Performing Arts

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## **BRITZMAN COLLECTION**

### **The University of Tulsa acquires Russell objects from the FAC**

**COLORADO SPRINGS** (Oct. 15, 2009) – The University of Tulsa, which manages the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Okla., has acquired the Britzman Collection from the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. The collection, comprised of 13,000 objects associated with American West artist Charles Marion Russell, was purchased in September. The amount of the purchase is not being disclosed.

The collection was amassed by one of Russell's biographers, Homer E. Britzman with the active cooperation of the artist's wife Nancy Russell after Russell's death in 1926 and was bequeathed to the Fine Arts Center by Helen Britzman in 1972.

When the Britzman Collection was gifted to the Fine Arts Center, 17 works of art were accessioned, or formally accepted, into the FAC Permanent Collection. These 17 artworks were most consistent with the FAC mission and collecting focus and they were not included in this sale.

Many of objects sold are considered 'archival' and include a large assortment of personal effects, including paints, brushes and palettes, small hand-molded sculptures of animals, spurs, carved ivory-handled revolver, bullwhips, pajamas, ties, socks, tie tacks, and Indian artifacts; newspaper clippings; personal photos, family photo albums and photographs of his artwork; postcards; copies of poems by Russell; sketches and drawings (studies); and original illustrated letters and envelopes.

"The items involved in the sale did not match our mission or collecting policy," said Fine Arts Center CEO and President Sam Gappmayer. "We wanted the Britzman Collection to go to an institution that would preserve it and present it as an active resource to the public.

"The Gilcrease Museum is an ideal home for the Britzman Collection," Gappmayer said. "The museum is well known for its comprehensive collection of art and artifacts of the American West as well as its significant collection of archival materials with over 100,000 items. Now instead of languishing in the FAC storage, the Britzman Collection will be available to the public, Russell enthusiasts, University of Tulsa students, faculty, scholars and publishers."

“Our acquisition will allow Gilcrease to open new avenues of research into the life and works of one of the American West’s defining artists,” said TU President Steadman Upham. “Having these materials together under one roof will provide unparalleled opportunities for researchers to study the materials in the Russell-Britzman collection within the context of the masterworks at Gilcrease.”

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### **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 center. 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](http://csfineartscenter.org).

### **About Gilcrease Museum**

Gilcrease Museum is one of the country’s best facilities for the preservation and study of American art and history. The museum houses the world’s largest and most comprehensive collection of art and artifacts of the American West, including an unparalleled collection of Native American art and artifacts, as well as thousands of historical documents, maps and manuscripts. Gilcrease museum’s charm, beauty and art collections draw thousands of visitors from around the world to the Osage Hills just northwest of downtown Tulsa for a glimpse into the past. For more information, visit the [Gilcrease Museum](http://gilcrease.org).

### **About The University of Tulsa**

The University of Tulsa, ranked among the Top 100 universities by U.S. News & World Report, provides educational opportunities to more than 4,200 undergraduate and graduate students in the colleges of arts and sciences, business, law, and engineering and natural sciences. Students from across the nation and more than 60 countries enjoy TU’s personalized attention, small class sizes and low student-faculty ratio.