



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

[COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU/FAC](http://COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU/FAC)

**Contact:** Amanda Weston, Media Relations  
and Outreach Manager  
(719) 389-6770; [aweston@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:aweston@coloradocollege.edu)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Six artists explore the human-animal bond through art in special exhibition, *Year of the Dog*, at the Fine Arts Center**

*Colorado Springs (May 9, 2018)* – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is excited to present the special exhibition *Year of the Dog*, on view May 19-Oct. 14, 2018.

*Year of the Dog* deeply examines the profound human-animal bond, from a cultural obsession with our canine companions, to the opposing attitude of disposability and disregard for the very same creatures. Featuring six highly renowned American artists working across a variety of mediums and each addressing a different facet of the theme, *Year of the Dog* asks us to examine the psychology of our sometimes contradictory relationships with animals. Through the power of visual art, it opens an opportunity for dialogue surrounding the ways in which we can all strive to live more compassionately for the benefit of all sentient beings and the world in which they inhabit.

### **Featured artists:**

#### **Nick Cave (Chicago, IL)**

Nick Cave is an artist, educator, and foremost a messenger – working between the visual and performing arts through a wide range of mediums including sculpture, installation, video, sound, and performance. He says of himself, "I have found my middle and now am working toward what I am leaving behind." Cave is well-known for his *Soundsuits*, sculptural forms based on the scale of his body. *Soundsuits* camouflage the body, masking and creating a second skin that conceals race, gender, and class, forcing the viewer to look without judgment.

Cave has received several prestigious awards including, the Americans for the Arts 2014 Public Art Network Year in Review Award (2014) in recognition of his Grand Central Terminal performance *Heard - NY*, Joan Mitchell Foundation Award (2008), Artadia Award (2006), the Joyce Award (2006), Creative Capital Grants (2002, 2004 and 2005), and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award (2001). Cave, who received his Master of Fine Arts at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, is Professor and Chairman of the Fashion Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Cave has been represented by Jack Shainman Gallery since 2006. Public collections include the Brooklyn Museum; Crystal Bridges; the Detroit Institute of Arts; the High Museum; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; the Norton Museum of Art; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Birmingham Museum of Art; the De Young Museum; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Orlando Museum of Art; the Smithsonian Institution; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among others.

#### **Monique Crine (Denver, CO)**

Working from her own photographs, Monique Crine creates arresting paintings that explore different American archetypes. Crine was born in Heidelberg, Germany and obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from San Francisco State University, and her Master of Fine Arts degree from Cornell University. She is the recipient of many awards including a Pollock-Krasner

Foundation Grant; CCA grant; the Bank of America Award in Fine Arts; and a National MS Society scholarship. Since her first show in 1996, Crine has exhibited across North America, with solo shows in New York, Colorado and California. Her series solo exhibition *Critical Focus: Monique Crine* ran at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver in the summer of 2015.

Previous series include *Grey Towers*, based on photographs of JFK taken by Crine's grandfather two months before his assassination and *Tony James*, a series of paintings and photographs taken of infantryman within the U.S. Army based out of Fort Carson, specializing as a combat engineer in route clearance.

### **Mary Shannon Johnstone (Raleigh, NC)**

Mary Shannon Johnstone received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Master of Fine Arts in photography from Rochester Institute of Technology. She is the recipient of numerous awards including "Pause, To Begin" artist, Critical Mass Top 50 (2009, 2010), and Honorable Mention in Lens Culture's 2010 International Exposure Awards. Johnstone is also a tenured Associate Professor at Meredith College in Raleigh, NC.

Her series *Landfill Dogs* became a 2013 Critical Mass Finalist, received "Best in Show" at the *Puppy Love* exhibition in GA, and is one of the 2014 Review Santa Fe 100. *Landfill Dogs* has been featured in national and international exhibitions and magazines, and was on *ABC World News* with Diane Sawyer in December 2013, and CNN's website in November 2014.

### **Frank Romero (Los Angeles, CA)**

Throughout his 40 year career as an artist, Frank Romero has been a dedicated member of the Los Angeles arts community. As a member of the 1970s Chicano art collective, Los Four, Romero and fellow artists Carlos Almaraz, Beto de la Rocha, and Gilbert Lujan helped to define and promote the new awareness of La Raza through murals, publications, and exhibitions. Los Four's historic 1974 exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art was the country's first show of Chicano art at a major art institution.

Since then, Romero has successfully balanced a career in both the public and private arenas. He has completed over 15 murals throughout Los Angeles, and was a key contributor to the 1984 Olympic Arts Festival with *Going to the Olympics*, a large-scale mural which adorned one of Los Angeles' busiest freeways (Highway 101).

Romero has exhibited extensively in the United States, Europe, and Japan. His work is featured in many permanent collections, including the National Museum of Art in Washington D.C.; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and the Carnegie Museum in Oxnard, CA.

### **Sharon Romero (Los Angeles, CA)**

Sharon Romero has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Pitzer College in Claremont, CA and a Master of Fine Arts degree from California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). She uses her on-going interest in psychoanalytic theory to explore behavior and relationships in her paintings.

Her love of paint and the physicality of the medium creates work that is satisfying visually, but on closer inspection is much more than pure painterly pleasure. Romero's colorful and celebratory images mask underlying psychological frameworks with the culture of artifice, desire, and distraction being recurrent themes. Each body of work builds upon the next, at all times whatever the artist has become obsessed with.

Romero lives and works with her husband, artist Frank Romero in Los Angeles and in France.

## **Ralph Scala (Santa Fe, NM)**

Ralph Scala currently maintains a studio in Santa Fe, NM where he produces painting, sculpture, and functional ceramics. With a focus on painting and sculpture, Scala received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Evergreen State College in 1995. From there, he went on to serve as studio director at Lillstreet Art Center in Chicago (1995-2000), followed by stints as studio manager at Santa Fe Clay (2000-2005), and more recently Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Colorado (2005-2016).

During the past two decades, he's established himself as a kiln designer and builder throughout the United States. While his functional pieces are heavily inspired by traditional Japanese pottery, Scala's colorful and slightly warped personality plays a more prevalent role within his figurative sculptures.

Scala's work can be found in numerous private collections around the country.

## ***Year of the Dog***

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**When:** May 19-Oct. 14, 2018

**Where:** Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, 30 W. Dale St.

**Admission:** \$10 (\$5 military and seniors 55+); FREE for members, kids 12 and under, students, and teachers (with ID)

### **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College**

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit [coloradocollege.edu/fac](http://coloradocollege.edu/fac)

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