



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

[COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU/FAC](http://coloradocollege.edu/fac)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Fine Arts Center celebrates its centennial and looks to the future through storytelling, art classes, exhibitions, and community events

Colorado Springs (Dec 14, 2018) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is excited to announce its 100-year anniversary celebrating the Broadmoor Art Academy and the Fine Arts Center’s rich history.

The Broadmoor Art Academy was born in 1919 grounded in western exploration and discovery. The beauty of the American West has long attracted artists and at the turn of the century, both artists and tourists were drawn to the distinctive geography of Colorado Springs.

The Fine Arts Center’s story begins as a burgeoning art colony at the foot of Pikes Peak. Colorado Springs founder Gen. William Jackson Palmer had envisioned a city he nicknamed “Little London” – an oasis of culture and refinement amidst the untamed rugged landscape – and early in the city’s history, artists from around the country streamed into the region to bring the vision to life.

In the former home of philanthropists Julie and Spencer Penrose, located on the current site of the Fine Arts Center, the Broadmoor Art Academy (BAA) was established with a vision of creating a new art school of national stature. The BAA represented the long-held dream of an art school that emphasized easel painting and served the community by hosting music recitals, drama and dance performances, and art exhibitions.

Bordering Monument Valley Park, the former Penrose estate provided an ideal location for an art school, offering a spectacular view of Pikes Peak and proximity to other attractions that created perfect backdrops for en plein air painting such as Garden of the Gods and Cripple Creek.

Colorado Springs rivaled Taos and Santa Fe with its dynamic arts scene and ability to attract high caliber artists including Ward Lockwood, Birger Sandzén, Charles Bunnell, Lawrence Barrett, Frank Mechau, Adolf Dehn, Laura Gilpin, Lew Tilley, Archie Musick, and Mary Chenoweth.

After the Great Depression hit in 1929, the BAA looked at diversifying further, expanding into one of the first multicultural and multidisciplinary arts centers to encompass a fine art museum, arts education, and theatre, essentially an entire arts district under one roof. In 1935, the BAA shifted in name to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, followed in 1936 by the grand new facility, but the ongoing commitment to arts education remained a pillar of the institution.

Julie Penrose donated the land, Alice Bemis Taylor donated her Southwestern collection of art and publications as well as the funds for the new building and an endowment, and Elizabeth Sage Hare volunteered to serve as the first President of the Board of Trustees.

A century after the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy, the FAC celebrates the ingenuity of the artists and patrons who helped to shape the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College into the fine museum, performing arts theatre, and art school it is today.

As Colorado Springs continues to grow, so does the importance of a strong cultural identity. The FAC is proud to have been an early and ongoing participant in this endeavor and strives to embrace the many avenues toward a doubly inclusive and dynamic Fine Arts Center for all.

The community is invited to take part in the FAC's year-long celebration through a variety of exciting events, exhibitions, art classes, and more! Starting with:

Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration

When: Jan. 26; 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Fine Arts Center; 30 W. Dale St.

Admission: FREE and open to the public

More: Celebration events and activities will include:

- Guided tours of featured exhibitions *O Beautiful! Shifting Landscapes of the Pikes Peak Region* and *Scenes of Everyday Life: Drawings by Bernard Arnest* at 12 and 12:30 p.m.
- One-act play readings of the first play performed by the Academy Players in 1919, *Suppressed Desires*, in the galleries at 1 and 3 p.m.
- Hands-on art activities and demonstrations 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Complimentary hot beverages and sweet treats 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Taste open for lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Other anniversary related exhibits and events include:

In the Museum

A series of exhibitions focused on the mission, vision, and history of the Broadmoor Art Academy and the Fine Arts Center.

Thru 2019 | *O Beautiful! Shifting Landscapes of the Pikes Peak Region*

Opening Jan. 19 | *Scenes from Life: Drawings by Bernard Arnest*

Opening August 3 | *Notes from the Musick Collection*

Opening Oct. 12 | *The Broadmoor Art Academy and Its Legacy, 1919-1970*

A full schedule of exhibitions can be found online.

In the Theatre

From the earliest days, the Broadmoor Art Academy offered class instruction in the dramatic and music arts and served as the home of the Colorado Springs chapter of the national Drama League, later to be known as The Art Academy Players. In homage to "The Academy Players" of the BAA, the FAC Theatre Company will perform special one-act play readings in the museum galleries on the following Museum Free Days: Jan. 26, March 9, May 11, July 13, Sept. 14, and Nov. 9, 2019. A full schedule of theatre events can be found online.

In the Art School

Through 2019, the FAC's Bemis School of Art will mount classes in printmaking, lithography, *en plein air* painting, and other related mediums in celebration of the art and artists whose work here during the BAA's heyday contributed significantly to artistic traditions of the era. Excursions to the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery in Kansas and the desert vistas of Taos, New Mexico will also immerse workshop participants in painting instruction reminiscent of the academicians of the Broadmoor Art Academy. A full schedule of classes can be found online.

And save-the-date for these special events:

Annual Gala | Sept. 7
FAC 100th Birthday Party | Oct. 12

Special Membership Offer

For a limited time only, the FAC will offer a special 100th Anniversary Medallion Club family membership for \$100, which includes a special FAC branded gift! Visit the website for more details.

Further details on anniversary related events and happenings can be found at www.csfineartscenter.org/100-years

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. For nearly 100 years, 30 West Dale Street has been the hub of rich cultural history throughout the region. The Broadmoor Art Academy served as a pillar in the cultural community of the Rocky Mountain West. 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 – ultimately evolving into what is known today as 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 www.coloradocollege.edu/fac

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