



TUCSON MUSEUM of ART  
WESTERN ART PATRONS

Newsletter: Fall, 2022

Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block  
140 N. Main Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85701

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**Western Art Patrons Visit the Mile High City October 17-20, 2022**



Western Art Patrons meet at the Dan Ostermiller sculpture, *Scottish Angus Cow and Calf*, 2001, to start the trip.

This October saw the kickoff of the 2022-2023 season with the first major art trip for WAP since 2018. Sixteen art enthusiasts including Christine Brindza, Senior Curator, Glasser Curator of Art of the American West, made the trip to Denver, Colorado on October 16<sup>th</sup> and, with the Art Hotel as base, had a great time spending the next four days visiting museums, galleries, and artists' studios.

Tuesday began with a short walk to the Dan Ostermiller sculpture *Scottish Angus Cow and Calf*, 2001, near the Denver Art Museum. WAP tried a new mode for group travel and used Lyft rides for many stops during the trip. The first stop was David Cook Gallery where Linda

Cook provided a wonder talk and tour of the Gallery followed by lunch at the Wynkoop Brewing Company (the first brew pub in the country). After lunch, the group visited Duke Beardsley's studio for a tour and discussion of his artistic philosophy and an upcoming commission. He's a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Coloradan who grew up appreciating the land and those who work it.

Wednesday was jam-packed with Art of the American West both historic and contemporary. It started with a bus trip to Tom Petrie's home and collection which is built around five galleries of art specializing in Charlie Russell with a healthy sprinkling of Von Schmidt, Olaf Seltzer, Tom Gillian, Thomas Moran, and more. After Petrie's thorough tour and superb storytelling, it was on to the American Museum of Western Art, the Anschutz Collection, in the historic Navarre Building in downtown Denver. The collection contains over 300 hundred paintings by more than 180 artists displayed in salon style on four floors depicting the history and beauty of the history of the American West.

Overwhelmed but ready for more, it was off to Don Coen's home and studio in Boulder, CO, for lunch in his back yard. Coen, an artist known for large canvases of Western themes done in airbrush, toured his studio and talked about life events that changed the direction of his work. The last stop of the day was a visit to the Western Center for the Conservation of Fine Art, a nationally respected organization in the field of conservation. the group was able to see pieces in different stages of conservation.



WAP Travelers were amazed by the scale and detail of Don Coen's large canvases from his Migrant Series.



Christine presented Willy Matthews with a copy of *The Western Sublime*, and he gave each of the group copies of one of his catalogues as well!

Thursday found the group walking to the Denver Art Museum to meet JR Henneman, Director of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art, who provided a short orientation of the Museum's Western Galleries. Travelers then spent the remainder of the morning exploring the galleries before enjoying lunch at the Museum's Ponti Café. Those with any energy left headed to the Denver Civic Center afterward to see Alexander P. Proctor's 1919 bronze *Broncho Buster* and 1921 bronze *On the War Trail*.

That afternoon travelers headed to the William Matthew's Studio and Art Gallery. Known for his images of working cowboys, Matthews capped off the visit with signed copies of his recent book *William Matthews: Working the West*. The final event was a closing dinner back at the Art Hotel that included some of the artists and hosts at our stops during the trip. The group had a chance to chat more with Linda Cook, William Matthews, JR Hennemen, and Carmen Bria, Jr.



Denver travelers at the closing dinner with hosts and artists.

## WAP President's Message

We want to offer a warm welcome to our new Tucson Museum of Art CEO Norah Dietrich, who will take her position at the beginning of 2023. And along with that a huge thank you to Chris Gordon for his thoughtful leadership over the past year.

There are several interesting WAP events coming up and I hope you have them on your calendars, several will be highlighted in this Newsletter. One is the Holiday Party when we are planning to introduce you to our newest Board member. It's on Sunday, December 4, at Rachel and Stephen Sattinger's Ranch.

Plans are underway for a Fall trip to Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico and will begin in Taos on September 28, 2023. Participants will arrive on their own the previous day. Artists, galleries, and studios will be a part of this exciting trip. Information will be shared as it is finalized.

Welcome to all our new WAP members, we are so pleased to have you join our support organization of TMA. Our goal is three-fold; to provide quality programming, plan Western Art trips and events, and provide dollars for underwriting for TMA's exhibitions and art for TMA's permanent collection. In addition, we a social group that enjoys meeting others who love Western art and making new friends.

I hope to see you at the holiday party, and at WAP events in 2023!

-Judy Betty

## Our Season Opener

On November 7, 2022, WAP had a wonderful afternoon/evening event to begin the “Year of the Museums”. Members gathered at Café a La Carte for a social time to visit with friends and other patrons and enjoy tasty appetizers and a drink. Then, Christine led two groups on a tour of the exciting new exhibition she curated, which recently opened. *More Than: Expanding Artist Identities from the American West* focuses on works of art created throughout the American West, the US Southwest border, and parts of Canada by artists who are women, people of color and people of intersectional backgrounds. How these artists embrace various parts of themselves and incorporate those identities into their art was the focus. She shared some of her experiences interacting with the artists as she put together the exhibition and how two of the artists created paintings specifically for this exhibition. It was a fun and enjoyable event.



Christine tours the *More Than* exhibition with members

## Upcoming Events Not to be Missed!

- **Holiday Party: Sunday, December 4, 2023, at 4:00**

Let's Celebrate! Let's Celebrate our love of Western Art. Let's Celebrate being part of Western Art Patrons. And Most of All Let's Celebrate the upcoming holidays by being together with friends to welcome in the season. It will be held at the lovely home of Rachel and Stephen Sattinger. Hearty hors d'oeuvres will be catered by FEAST with wine, beer, and soft drinks available. Dessert will be a selection of holiday cookies. The cost of the event is \$45 per person.

Register online by clicking [HERE](#).



- **Bashas' Gallery and Scottsdale's Museum of the West: Wednesday, Jan 11, 2023**

WAP members will have the opportunity to participate in an exciting bus trip to Chandler and Scottsdale, Arizona to visit the renowned Bashas' Gallery Collections and Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West to see *Light and Legacy: The Art and Techniques of Edward S. Curtis*. If you have not seen either of these arts centers or exhibitions, this is a trip to make. Watch your email inboxes for a flyer soon!

- **Cowboy Cantina Speaker Series: February 18, 2023**

The annual Cowboy Cantina will be held at the Mountain Oyster Club with Glen Dean as the key presenter. This year marks the Tenth Annual Cowboy Cantina, and all past artist presenters will be invited to attend and celebrate. Additional information will be emailed to you shortly after the first of the year. Sign up early as this is a popular event!

## Curator's Corner

### *More Than Usual: An Artist's Story*

On October 14, 2022, the Tucson Museum of Art opened *More Than: Expanding Artists from the American West* to museum members and VIPs, highlighting artist identities and their stories of the West. Several artists whose work is in the exhibition came to town for the programming throughout the weekend. One such artist was Sarah Sense, Chitimacha and Choctaw, who learned how to weave in the basket tradition of her ancestors and incorporate these techniques into her flattened photographic and graphic works. Her piece in the exhibition, *Grandparent's Stories*, combines elements of memoirs from her grandmother, landscape photography from the Bayou, and the artist's dual personas of "cowgirl" and "Indian Princess" in a woven Chitimacha format.



Sarah Sense in front of *Grandparent's Stories* on opening night. This work was created in 2018 using strips of woven prints on bamboo and rice paper, wax, and tape.

In the gallery space, her work is located within an area that features Indigenous Women with “creative pairings” of art from the past and present displayed next to one another. Historic Chitimacha baskets are rare, but luckily, the Arizona State Museum (ASM) had a piece from the 1930s constructed with river cane to loan TMA and display with Sarah’s work.



Chitimacha, *Double Weave Twill Plaited Basket and Lid*, ca. 1930s, river cane, dyes. From the Collection of the Arizona State Museum, The University of Arizona.

At the opening, Sarah saw the Chitimacha basket in person and was awed by its construction. A few days later, Sarah communicated to me that she spoke to her relatives extensively about the basket. Turns out, it was likely her *own great-grandmother* who made it! Her great-grandmother on her Chitimacha side was a respected Medicine Woman and basket weaver from that era. This makes Sarah’s title of her piece, *Grandparent’s Stories*, ring even more true!

Stories like these that happen from exhibitions are always exciting, and I’m glad that the “creative pairings” made such a connection. The dialogue between past and present, ancestors and descendants, motifs and art forms, and artisans through time result in discoveries that enrich the way we understand works of art and artist identities.

If you have not seen it already, please visit the *More Than* exhibition and explore these works and many more stories on view!

Thank you, Western Art Patrons, for being sponsors of this exhibition and for your continued support of TMA. Your contributions make exhibitions like this happen!

- *Christine C. Brindza, Senior Curator, Glasser Curator of Art of the American West*

## **Western Art Patrons Board of Directors**

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of the American West

The Board sends particular thanks to Art Hittner for his service as Newsletter Editor. You will be missed.

Special thanks to Anne and Jeff Gartner, Woody Wood, and Julius Schlosburg for photographs appearing in this edition of the newsletter, as well as contributors to this edition from members of the Board of Directors and Travel and Events Committee.