



TUCSON MUSEUM of ART
WESTERN ART PATRONS

Newsletter: March 2023

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

Western Art Patrons Celebrate the Holidays



Western Art Patrons got an early start on the 2022 holidays with a terrific Holiday Party sponsored by the WAP Board of Directors, held at Rachel and Stephen Sattinger’s ranch.

Although the day turned out cold and drizzly, there was a great turnout, and the weather didn’t deter anyone from having a good time. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with our Western Art Patron friends and to meet new members in a festive atmosphere.

We thank the Sattingers for their gracious hospitality. Their lovely home was filled with impressive Western Art. Feast catered the event with generous hors d’oeuvres and Village Bakehouse provided delicious dessert. And our WAP bartenders: Dan Kimball, Peter Friedman, and Jim Betty, made sure everyone was happy with their favorite beverages.

Trip to Bashas' and Western Spirit

On January 11, 2023, thirty-two members of the Western Art Patrons boarded a bus for a trip to Chandler and Scottsdale to visit Bashas' Gallery and Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West.

To help prepare us for our first stop, The Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery of Western American and American Indian Art, Jerry Freund gave us an overview of Eddie Basha and how he blended his successful business career with a love for collecting Contemporary Western American and Indigenous Art. Bashas' Gallery, dedicated to Eddie's aunt, houses one of the largest privately-owned collections of over 3,000 objects.



We were in awe of the beautifully presented paintings, sketches, sculptures, baskets, Kachinas, pottery and jewelry. Although there wasn't a formal tour, Tammy Fontaine, the Gallery Director, was available to answer our questions.



Our next stop was the Cornish Pasty Company, where we enjoyed some wonderful pasties, such as the Oggie or Bangers and Mash, which hail from an English tradition that was new to many of us.

After lunch we walked across the street to Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West. We settled in the auditorium and were given a warm welcome by Wade Weber, Director of Education along with Dr. Tricia Loscher, Chief Curator and Dave Sherf, Interim CEO. At that point,

we split into two groups led by Wade and Gail Davis, an experienced docent.

Our primary reason for visiting was to see *Light and Legacy: The Art and Techniques of Edward S. Curtis*. In the late 1890s, Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952) saw a way to use his talent as a photographer to help Indigenous Peoples preserve and maintain their cultures and traditions. Curtis's endeavor enjoyed the public blessing of President Theodore Roosevelt, and in 1907, he secured financial backing from financier J. P. Morgan. For three decades, Curtis traveled the length and breadth of the American West, Western Canada, and Alaska, taking thousands of photographs of Indigenous communities. This exhibit offered us an opportunity to view one of the largest collections of Curtis material ever shown with a breadth and depth rarely presented in a single exhibition.



In addition to the Curtis exhibition, Western Spirit is showcasing another exceptional exhibit, *The Gather — Scott T. Baxter*. This is a collection of photographs from *100 Years 100 Ranchers*, a ten-year official Legacy Project for the Arizona Centennial. *Arizona Highways* Editor-In-Chief, Robert Stieve described the projects as, “the best photographs ever made of ranchers in Arizona” with “a historical importance that doesn’t exist anywhere else.” In addition to being a consummate photographer, our guides described Baxter as a great storyteller who connected personally with his subjects and maintained connections over the years. It is worth a trip to Scottsdale to visit Western Spirit and to see both marvelous exhibits.

After a stop in the Museum store, we got back on the bus and were back in Tucson by 5:30. It was a wonderful trip, and everyone enjoyed the outstanding exhibits in both locations.

10th Annual Cowboy Cantina

Our tenth annual Cowboy Cantina fundraiser was once again held at the Mountain Oyster Club and was celebrated by 77 attendees with socializing, dinner and a



presentation by landscape artist, Glenn Dean. After enjoying the delicious buffet dinner and sinful dessert bar, we settled in to enjoy the evening's program.

Our WAP president, Judy Betty, kicked off the presentation by welcoming everyone and noting that artist, Darcie Peet, our 2022 Annual Meeting presenter, was also in attendance.



Judy then introduced TMA's new CEO, Norah Diedrich. Norah provided a snapshot of her background of 20 years of scholarship and working in museums starting in Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, most recently completing a stint at the Newport Museum of Art in Rhode Island and is now settling in at TMA. Judy then called upon Christine Brindza, TMA's Senior Curator, Glasser Curator of Art of the American West to introduce featured artist, Glenn Dean, a self-taught landscape painter.

Glenn started his presentation by confessing he was nervous speaking in front of a large group and was much more comfortable in front of his easel painting, eliciting chuckles from the audience. He showed a slide of his first oil



composition, balance and color palettes being used and looking for that “quiet sense of the West”.

Glenn feels like he needs to be outdoors and does outdoor photo shoots with cowboy models and horses for reference. Glenn then moved on to showing slides of his various landscape paintings. He likes to keep his palette to 6-8 colors to ensure overall harmony. Glenn began to include moons in his paintings because of the “graphic shape and the connection to the divine”. His wife, Suzanne, is often one of his costumed models in his paintings. Glenn concluded by taking questions from the audience, where a member expressed how Glenn’s paintings embodied cinematic imagery similar to John Huston’s films.

University of Arizona Museum of Art Trip

An enthusiastic group of WAP members gathered at the University of Arizona Art Museum (UAMA) on March 7 for an exclusive viewing of highlights from their Western Art collection. Willa Ahlschwede, Assistant Curator of Education, welcomed our group of 32 and gave us some background on the Museum. The University of Arizona Art Department organized its first art exhibition in 1924. The Art Gallery was established in the campus library in 1933. Construction of the current Museum of Art building occurred in 1965, and just last year, it received a facelift on its front exterior. The Museum’s core collections include the art of

painting done at age 13 and purchased by his grandfather for \$35. His mom is a plein air painter who moved to Tucson in the 1990s and Glenn did his first outdoor painting at Catalina State Park. His goal with painting was to have the subject “right there in front of me”. Glenn studied art books and was not really attracted to what was being taught in institutions.

He showed paintings from his influences, including William Wendt, Edgar Payne, Maynard Dixon, Frederic Waugh, N. C. Wyeth, the Taos Society artists, Joaquin Sorolla, and several others. Glenn was studying the

Europe and the United States, from the Renaissance through Contemporary Art is part of their collection.



The group split into two and Willa led one group to the Western Art assembled in a classroom where Christine Brindza, Senior Curator, Art of the American West, talked about a selection of Western Art pieces she had pulled from the vault. For one group, she started with two large Andy Warhol pieces: *Sitting Bull* and

Indian Head Nickel from his “Cowboys and Indians” series. She then moved on to an etching by Gene Kloss, a Santa Fe artist. She also reviewed a painting by Frederic Remington, some sketches by Maynard Dixon, a chromolithograph by Thomas Moran, and a painting by Ernest Blumenschein. In another group, Jerry Freund shared his knowledge about the Maynard Dixon drawings. Christine had pulled the various pieces to demonstrate the variety of artists and styles within Western Art and why they are vital parts of the conversation regarding 20th Century Art.

While half the group was with Christine, Chelsea Farrar, Curator of Community Engagement led the other group into the exhibit featuring *Woman-Ochre* by Willem de Kooning. This exhibit details the background of the painting which was stolen from UAMA in 1985 and was missing for 32 years. It has been restored and to see it in person and to learn the history is well worth a visit to the Museum.

There was also time to walk through the other galleries and enjoy the breadth of the UA collection before enjoying excellent box lunches from Panera Bread.

WAP President’s Message

Dear WAP Members and Friends,

Thank you to all who supported the TMA Gala this year inspired by the theme “On the Western Horizon”. We are so proud of the Honorary chairs, Anne and Jeff Gartner, who did a fantastic job. Those in attendance can agree that being there

was a special experience. We are so pleased to be invited to a reception at Settlers West Gallery, March 24, to see Tales of the West, presented by six artists.



Don't forget to sign up for the April 15th day trip to Wickenburg for Cowgirl Up! and a fabulous lunch at Rancho de Los Caballeros.

You'll also want to be sure to have the Annual Meeting on your calendar, April 27. The Patanias, well-known Southwest jewelers, will be speaking and showing some pieces of jewelry as well as having their newest book available for purchase. Dinner follows at Cafe a la C'art.

Registration information for the September Taos-Santa Fe trip should be out the second week in April. The trip is September 27 - October 3, 2023, and accommodates 24 participants. You will place your down payment online and that is your registration. The first and last days given are travel days, and the tour begins in Taos so you determine how you will get there. We continue to work on solidifying the itinerary and other incidentals.

We have a number of new members, please continue to introduce yourself and welcome them to WAP!

Western Art Patrons Board of Directors

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of the American West

Special thanks to Linda Friedman and Susan Mansfield for contributing newsletter
articles and to Woody Wood, Eric Soulsby, Tony Garcia, and Christine Brindza for
photographs appearing in this edition of the WAP newsletter.

Images by order of appearance:

1. Holiday Party at Sattinger's Ranch
2. Jerry Freund giving an overview of what WAP will see on route to Phoenix
3. Wade Weber from Western Spirit giving a tour of the Curtis exhibition
4. Docent Gail Davis giving a tour of the Scott Baxter exhibition
5. Participants of the Cowboy Cantina 2023
6. Norah Diedrich introducing herself as new TMA CEO to the crowd at
Cowboy Cantina
7. Artist Glenn Dean and his wife Suzanne at the Cowboy Cantina
8. Willa Ahlschwede speaking to a group at the University of Arizona Museum
of Art about the museum's collection
9. The cover of the new *Legendary Patania Jewelry* book