



TUCSON MUSEUM *of* ART

WESTERN ART PATRONS

Special Edition Newsletter: Fall 2023

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



Western Art Patrons Visit Taos and Santa Fe Sept. 27 – October 2, 2023

The WAP Travel and Events Committee and Christine Brindza, Senior Curator, Glasser Curator of Art of the American West, planned another terrific trip for twenty-four members with unique experiences in both Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Our group checked into rustic Casa Benevides Inn in Taos on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 27th. On Thursday, September 28th, following a delicious made-to-order breakfast in the Inn's dining room, Jerry Freund kicked off our Thursday with introductions to multi-talented artist and painter Roseta Santiago and photographer Denise DeLeo, our two “concierges” for our trip.

Jerry introduced Davison Koenig, Executive Director of the Couse-Sharp Historic Site, home to the studios of two founders of the Taos Society of Artists, E. I. Couse and J. H. Sharp, an art gallery, archives, research library, chapel, and gorgeous garden. Davison calls himself a “reformed anthropologist” who had to “unlearn” what he was taught in his east coast education. His wife is the successful Santa Clara Pueblo ceramicist, Susan Folwell.



Davison Koenig orients the group at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site



Patricia Michaels discusses her designs and artistic and cultural philosophies.

At the Historic Site, Davison introduced Patricia Michaels, a fashion designer and Project Runway winner from Taos Pueblo. Patricia showed us her clothing designs and explained the use of her symbology that was respectful of Indigenous traditions. Many members bought earrings and clothing from Patricia after her presentation.

He provided background on both E. I. Couse and J. H. Sharp, their artistic influences from studies in Europe, and an introduction to the beauty of Taos and establishment of their neighboring studios beginning in 1909 which led to a life-long friendship. Davison also shared a humorous story that Sharp was deaf, and his dog would alert him to visitors to his studio, using his left ear to distinguish between true collectors and his right ear for tourists, which worked quite well until the dog turned Mr. Rockefeller away. Davison related that Couse did the calendar art for the railways which promoted travel to the West.

The group was divided into two groups for tours to see the studios, vault, research center, and chapel. At the Lunder Research Center we had the opportunity to tour the climate-controlled vault, gallery room, library and digitizing area.

Foundation staff has undertaken the time-consuming process of digitizing Couse's and other artists contact plates for preservation. The restored contact prints, cellulose nitrate and glass plate negatives are housed at the New Mexico Digital Collection at the University of New Mexico. These can be seen at <https://nmdc.unm.edu/digital/collection/couse-sharp>. Following the tour, Virginia Couse Leavitt, granddaughter of E. I. Couse, joined us for lunch on the garden patio while we enjoyed a talk by landscape artist and award-winning country-gospel singer, Jerry Jordan.

Next, we walked to the Parson's Gallery to meet with Robert Parsons and his daughter Ashley Rolshoven-Loveless. Robert founded the gallery in 1992 with a focus on Taos artists and living painters, such as Jerry Jordan. Ashley chooses painters with a more modernist approach to Western art. After touring the gallery and enjoying refreshments, Roseta escorted us to Taos & Tribe for a chance to meet local jewelry artists and do some shopping.



Roseta Santiago, Jerry Jordan, and Denise DeLeo at the lunch and presentation at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site

Friday morning, we carpooled to the home of Roger and Mindy Eiteljorg for a private tour of their exceptional collection of paintings and unique art pieces that span the early 20th and 21st centuries of artists from Taos and Santa Fe. We had a chance to relax on the patio and enjoy



Christine Brindza presents a thank you catalogue to hosts Roger and Mindy Eiteljorg.

their outdoor sculptures by George Carlson. The Eiteljorg Museum of Native and Western Art in Indianapolis was founded by Roger's father, Harrison. When asked if the architect designed

their home with their art collection in mind, Roger laughingly replied that he just told the architect he needed "a lot of walls". Next, we were off to Santa Fe to check into the Drury Plaza hotel and prepare for our very busy Saturday schedule.

Saturday morning began at the Allan Haozous Houser Sculpture Park and Gallery with a lecture by David Rettig on Allan Houser, Chiricahua Apache artist. He told us facts about Houser, such as how he was born in a government-run camp and forced to change his name when enrolled in school, his background in drawing, learning to paint and create sculpture, and his teaching career. His art teacher in Santa Fe, Dorothy Dunn, established "The Studio" which relegated her students to "Indian tribe imagery" at school, so Allan pursued his own work at home.



Touring the Houser Compound and looking at Prayer Song. One of them is currently on view at TMA.

We viewed the 2009 video “Unconquered Allan Houser and the Legacy of One Apache Family” followed by a guided tour of the large sculptures throughout the expansive park by David and Tracy.

Fun fact! Allan Haozous Houser was also a musician. He played jazz and blues on harmonica as well as the Apache flute. On the right to recast, Alan started the “Allan Houser Foundry” so that he could keep control of his work and number of re-castings.

On the way to Billy Schenck’s home, we stopped at Beer Creek Brewery for lunch, which just happened to be the day a local motorcycle club would finish up their usual ride with a beer and lunch. They were all quite interested in our group from Tucson and the art we saw on our various stops. It also rained a bit while we sat outside. Quite an unexpected and fun experience!



Billy Schenck in his studio

Billy Schenck and his wife, Rebecca Carter, gave us a tour of their home showing us paintings ranging from traditional to pop art. Billy also explained his interest in researching and collecting prehistoric pots to preserve them for future generations to study and enjoy. He described how the Native women ceramicists were “abstract artists” and spoke admiringly about the technical skill and precision they possessed to create such works. His passion project is writing a book about pottery collection which he hopes to have published in the near future.

Next we went to Billy’s studio and he explained his painting technique and showed us several in-process as well as finished pieces.

Billy explained his landscapes are his “inventions”. He compiles them from photographs, memory, etc. He was initially inspired by what Sergio Leone was doing in his films, called Spaghetti Westerns (Westerns created by Italians), which Billy wanted to do in art. John Clem

Clarke was his mentor during his studies in New York as a young man. Billy's tales of hanging out with Andy Warhol in New York were fascinating and quite evocative of that time.

Fun fact! Billy and Rebecca compete in rodeo: specifically ranch sorting competitions. They are both accomplished in this sport. His neighbor is not only a fellow ranch sorting competitor, but also a subject in some of Billy's paintings!



Jerry Freund goes over the agenda every morning with the group at the hotel.

development as artists, creative inspirations, and painting styles. Jim Vogel explained that he paints to “fulfill the need to tell stories” and it’s like a “little exorcism” to get the images out of his mind. Vogel’s subjects are the people of New Mexico: workers, farmers and laborers. TMA has Vogel’s painting *Glory Bound/Woody Guthrie* in the permanent collection. Kathryn Stedham spoke of how she attempts to share “the expansiveness of the Southwest in a framed, confined art piece”. An avid rock climber, sailor, and hiker, she sees the continuity of the mountains and the

Sunday morning started at Blue Rain Gallery with the opportunity to meet three diverse artists – Jim Vogel, Kathryn Stedham, and GL Richardson -and hear them discuss their



GL Richardson talks about his work at Blue Rain Gallery

ocean, where she grew up sailing in Virginia. She was introduced to painting through “paint by numbers” sets that her grandfather gave her. GL Richardson studied advertising and strategic communications but became disillusioned with the rat race of commercial art. He found his voice on the

cattle ranch in New Mexico, where he met his future wife, a landscape architect. Living and working on the ranch with all different types of people showed GL nuances and struggles of life that he attempts to show through his paintings.



During one of the New Mexico Museum of Art tours Christine unexpectedly stepped in to finish the tour!

Our Sunday afternoon had us at the New Mexico Museum of Art for a tour of their collection, focused on Western Art and Los Cinco Pintores of Santa Fe. The group was divided into two. Will

Shuster, Fremont Ellis, Walter Mruk, Jozef Bakos and

Willard Nash formed their artist collective in 1921 in Santa Fe. The museum also has fine examples of pottery by Maria Martinez. During the tour, one of the groups had an unexpected occurrence. One of the docents became ill and Christine stepped in to finish the tour. After our tours, we all had time to visit the other collections, including pieces by Judy Chicago, and then do some shopping in the gift shop.



WAP Members in Cara Romero's studio looking at Last Indian Market and learning about her work.

Monday morning presented the very special opportunity to visit Cara Romero's photography gallery and enjoy a fascinating talk by Cara. She is Chemehuevi and grew up on the reservation, but then spent years moving back and forth between Houston and the Mojave Desert. She

originally set out to be a cultural anthropologist but stumbled into a black and white photography class at the University of Houston. Cara then attended the Art Institute of San Francisco and found her voice in 2011/2012 after emulating styles of other artists, such as Edward Curtis. Cara examines Indigenous life through her creative lens. Her process is to “build a set in her mind”, sketch on paper and then find articles to include in a multi-layered photographic story. While Cara does use Photoshop, she tries to do as much in the photograph itself as possible to create a highly-produced, real life piece. Cara’s work is in dozens of museums and private collections across the country, and it was a thrilling experience to hear from her about her creative process.



Romero's Last Indian Market- a stunning photograph that includes a who's who of Native Art today.

On Monday afternoon, we visited the Nedra Matteucci Galleries which was established in 1972. WAP got a tour of the gallery as well as the guest rooms that tourists can rent, complete with oil paintings and amazing amenities. The gallery seemed to have rooms within rooms. There were pieces by Terri Kelly Moyers, John Moyers, Henry Balink, Clark Hulings, Fremont Ellis, Leon Gaspard, David A. Leffel, William Acheff, Joan Potter, and so many more.



Travelers enjoying the garden at Nedra Matteucci before some rainfall forced everyone indoors.

The gallery also includes the incredible sculpture garden with a pond where many pieces by female sculptors Glenna Goodacre and Mardi Rees were displayed. The garden is listed on Trip Advisor as a must-see destination.

Monday evening, we enjoyed a delicious



Roseta Santiago and Phylis Carnahan with her painting.

buffet dinner at the hotel to close out our marvelous trip. Roseta Santiago had donated a painting to WAP to be raffled off at the dinner and joined us to congratulate the lucky winner, Phylis Carnahan.

Thank you to all who joined us on this trip, to the Travel and Events committee members who spent long hours putting it together, the artists and collectors who opened their homes and studios, and the museums and foundations who warmly welcomed us. These trips

benefit WAP so they can continue to support TMA exhibitions and art acquisitions and are truly one-of-a-kind experiences you can't get anywhere else!

WAP President's Message

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to another season of WAP events. Your Board of Directors is planning a special **Holiday Party on December 3, 4:00 PM, at Sattinger's Ranch**. Stephen and Rachel have again graciously agreed to host us, please remember to sign up. The BBQ dinner sounds delicious and there will be plenty of holiday cookies to munch on.

I'm also pleased to announce **Roseta Santiago** will be our Cowboy Cantina speaker on February 17th at the Mountain Oyster Club. She is very familiar to many of you and was thrilled to be invited, so we look forward to an interesting talk and a good friend of WAP. More information will be available in January.

Always remember if you have any questions or thoughts, I'm available at jetty1000@aol.com or my cell, 612-210-6058.

Warm regards,
Judy Betty, WAP President

Upcoming Events Not to be Missed!

- **Holiday Party: Sunday, December 3, at 4:00 at Sattinger's**

On behalf of the WAP Board, you are invited to attend the WAP Holiday Party at Sattinger's Ranch! This year there will be entertainment by Chris Minker, BBQ, holiday cookies, libations, and lots of fun. Bring your friends! This is another chance to invite friends who are interested in WAP to a festive gathering with other WAP members. The cost of the event is \$50 per person.

- **Heard Museum in Phoenix and Cattle Track Arts Compound in Scottsdale: January 17, 2024**

This is a bus trip to the Heard Museum where we will go on a guided tour. A no host lunch will be at the Museum followed by a visit to Cattle Track Arts Compound, where photographer Scott Baxter will take us on a tour of his studio. The cost of transportation is \$75 and admission to the Heard is \$18 for seniors.

- **Cowboy Cantina: February 17, 2024 at the Mountain Oyster Club**

Western Art Patrons invite you to the Cowboy Cantina Speaker series to benefit the Western Art Patrons on Saturday, February 17 at 5:00. The featured speaker is Roseta Santiago from Santa Fe. The cost of the buffet dinner at the MO Club is \$150 per person.

- **Eric Kaldahl, President and CEO Amerind Museum: March 23, 2024, Finisterra Clubhouse.**

Eric Kaldahl, President and CEO of Amerind, will chat with us about the Amerind collection and answer any questions. We will meet at the Finisterra clubhouse at 2:00. Stay tuned for more information.

- **WAP Annual Meeting: April 29, 2024 at TMA Baker Education Building**

The meeting and presentation by Stephen Datz, artist speaker from Grand Junction, CO, begins at 5:15. An optional dinner at Café a la Carte is at 6:45. Stay tuned for more information.

Western Art Patrons Board of Directors

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