



TUCSON MUSEUM of ART WESTERN ART PATRONS

Newsletter: Fall 2023-January 2024

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

Western Art Patrons Opening Event



WAP Members enjoying lunch on the Larkin Patio

The WAP Opening Event was held on October 14, 2023. Our featured artist was Maura Allen. We started with a tasty patio luncheon at the Baker Building catered by Feast.

After the luncheon, 35 of us moved inside and were welcomed by WAP President Judy Betty who introduced Norah Diedrich, Jon and Linda Ender Director and CEO. Norah highlighted the prior evening's opening of *CUMBI: Textiles, Society, and Memory in Andean South America*. She reviewed some of the major upcoming events including the 2024 TMA Centennial

Celebration. She also mentioned the March 16, 2024 Gala, and the planned repair of La Casa Cordova. She thanked everyone for attending and their on-going support of TMA.



Maura Allen discussing her influences in photography

Judy Betty then introduced Linda Friedman who encouraged all in attendance to take the time to walk the museum and see the current installations of *CUMBI*, the Art of the American West, *Stories from Clay* and the other galleries that have been recently reinstalled.

Christine Brindza, Senior Curator, Glasser Curator of Art of the American West introduced our guest artist, Maura Allen. Maura grew up in Northern California around the corner from Stanford University, where she would eventually

study Latin/Classical Studies, learning how iconic figures, myths, and moments define a culture. When she began photographing the American West with ranchers and wranglers as her trusted guides, she realized the same cultural forces were at play. Whether real or romanticized, stories of the American West are at the center of Maura's work. An award-winning black-and-white photographer, her photographic images made on location serve as a starting point for her mixed media paintings.

She is an accomplished speaker and did a great job describing her process for us. Starting on location at ranches and rodeos with her own photography, she magically weaves past and present, "Old West" (vintage wallpaper designs, typography and other symbols) elements with modern day imagery, to create original contemporary paintings, sculpture and fine art glass pieces. The result is a feeling the past is always present. Her work is included in museums, corporate and private collections, sold in top galleries and have been featured in dozens of publications. When not on the road, Prescott, AZ, and Williamson Valley are home.



Norah Diedrich, TMA CEO, welcomes WAP to an exciting year

Western Art Patrons Attend Sneak Preview at Settlers West and visit expanded space at Sanders Galleries



Camaraderie and art at Settlers West and Sanders Galleries

On Friday, November 17, Stuart Johnson of Settlers West and Chris Sanders of Sanders Galleries invited the Western Art Patrons to a special preview showing at their premier art galleries located in the beautiful setting at the base of the Santa Catalina Mountains.

Fifty-five WAP members and guests attended the sneak preview of Settlers West **“The Great American West”** and explored the recently expanded space at Sanders Galleries. **“The Great American West”** featured new works by over 50 of the most talented artists painting and sculpting today. A range of mediums was represented, including oil, water, charcoal and bronze. Mike Untiedt, one of the featured artists was there in person to discuss his paintings with our members.

The depth and breadth of the art throughout the galleries was impressive and the newly expanded space (1,800 square feet) at Sanders was filled with large contemporary pieces as well as more traditional western art. Our members enjoyed hearing Chris Sanders share background information on one of the more enigmatic pieces in his gallery, **“Lady Liberty”** by Gregory Block.

Settlers West provided drinks and appetizers during the evening while we enjoyed the artwork and socializing with WAP members and friends. This was an opportunity for members to invite non-WAP friends who might have an interest in joining WAP and expose them to the enjoyable art events.

Western Art Patrons Board of Directors Holiday Party



Judy Betty thanks Stephen and Rachel Sattinger for their hospitality

Happy Holidays! December 3rd was a beautiful day in Tucson and Western Art Patrons took advantage to celebrate with a Holiday Party at Rachel and Stephen Sattinger's Ranch.

The first stop inside this beautiful home was the bar, where Dan Kimball, Peter Friedman and Jim Betty made sure everyone was welcomed with their favorite holiday beverage. The Sattinger's home is filled with wonderful art enhanced with the recent addition of a magnificent stagecoach by Dan Bates.

Seventy-two members and guests were welcomed by WAP Board President, Judy Betty who thanked the Sattingers, the WAP Board, the party committee and the musician, Chris Minker for the event. Chris created wonderful music for the party. He has played western music all his life and you might have seen him at the Mountain Oyster Club, where he has performed for the past 15 years.

The delicious buffet was catered by Brushfire BBQ and included brisket, pulled pork and chicken in addition to beans, potato salad and more! Everyone enjoyed the chance to catch up with old WAP friends and meet new members and guests in this great setting. We can't thank the Sattingers enough for once again sharing their beautiful home with WAP at holiday time.



Enjoying each other's company at the Sattinger's Ranch

Western Art Patron's Trip to the Heard Museum and Cattle Track Arts Compound



Heard Museum Chief Curator Diana Pardue welcomed WAP to the museum.

On Wednesday, January 17, 2024, thirty-five of us took a bus trip to the Heard Museum in Phoenix followed by a visit to Western photographer Scott Baxter's Studio at Cattle Track Arts Compound in Scottsdale.

The Heard Museum celebrates Indigenous creativity with 12 galleries of American Indian art. Upon arriving the group was warmly greeted by Heard Chief Curator Diana Pardue after which we split into two groups led by museum guides Jeff Ross and DeWayne Matthews. The guides took us through the current exhibit of **HOME: Native People in the Southwest**. The exhibit points out the history of each tribe and illustrates the environmental and agricultural circumstances that influenced the art and cultural evolution of the tribe. Some of the highlights included a 30-foot glass and clay art fence by current Indigenous artists Tony Jojola (Isleta Pueblo) and Rosemary Lonewolf (Santa Clara Pueblo/Tewa), a display of Hopi katsina dolls from the Goldwater and Fred Harvey Company collections, a full-size Navajo Hogan and an adjacent sculpture garden.

After our tour we enjoyed lunch at the Museum's Courtyard Café, which was followed by a visit to Cattle Track Arts Compound in Scottsdale. Our first stop at Cattle Track was the studio of Scott T. Baxter. Scott and his wife Mary were there to greet us and welcome us to his studio. He has been a professional photographer for more than 30 years. He explained his on-going relationship with his subjects and described the many outstanding framed pieces that were hanging in his studio. He also pointed out the subtle differences resulting from his photographic



Scott Baxter explaining his photographic process and publications

at Cattle Track including Mark McDowell, Mary Meyer and others. Cattle Track provides grants for emerging artists and art publications. They also have a gallery and area for events. Artist Fritz Scholder once had his studio there!

After a short time moving through the compound and exploring the other artists' studios, we boarded the bus and returned to Tucson. Special thanks go out to Phylis Carnahan who made the arrangements, kept us on schedule, hydrated, and satisfied with snacks.

WAP President's Message

Welcome Western Art Patrons to 2024! We have opportunities for you!

It seems we have started a new tradition with our holiday party that we will continue. Seventy-nine people signed up, more than last year, so it indicates that we have a group that enjoys each other's company, and an annual social is a must! Our Board committee will begin searching for a location for next year. If you have ideas for a location please send them to me, Judy, text at 612-210-6058 or email at jetty1000@aol.com.

The WAP BOD was thrilled that the TMA Acquisitions Committee unanimously voted to accept the WAP gift of *Last Indian Market* by Santa Fe photographer, Cara Romero, for the TMA collection in December. We are planning to have an official presentation and an artist talk by Cara in the future.

Planning for the Montana trip scheduled for September 4-10, 2024, is underway. Hotels are booked, transportation is secured, and a tour of the Charles Russell Museum is being finalized, among many other great stops! We'll be figuring out costs and

development processes. In 2012, his exhibit **100 Years 100 Ranchers** was featured at the Tucson Museum of Art and curated by our own Christine Brindza. Last year we also saw some of his work exhibited in **The Gather—Scott T. Baxter** on our trip to Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West.

Scott then introduced us to several of the other artists operating

finalizing the itineraries, with information to be out in April. It's going to be a lot of fun, so polish up those boots or sneakers and get ready to pack your jeans!

Plans for next year's schedule of events are in motion and will be announced at the Annual Meeting on April 29, 2024. As always, if you have a concept for an event, please reach out to the Travel and Events Committee as we welcome your ideas.



Related to this, a couple of years ago, the BOD voted to get on board with other organizations at TMA and offer speakers a \$250 honorarium, which is included in the cost of our events. This respects the time and talent that the speakers put into their presentations, which are often many hours, and replaces the catalogue that we would present to speakers. Additionally, it is TMA policy for support organizations to cover the cost of essential staff members attending events such as the liaison or

CEO. The Travel and Events Committee works hard to make events affordable and, unless it is a fundraiser, only charge members to cover costs.

Be sure to check the schedule for upcoming events of speakers and artists including our eleventh annual Cowboy Cantina, February 17, 2024, featuring Roseta Santiago. A huge thank you to Connie Trecartin and her Travel and Events Committee for their work in making these activities happen.

Warm Regards,
Judy Betty, WAP President

Curator's Corner

TMA's Art of the American West History



George Catlin, *O-jib-be-ways*, 1845, two color lithograph, Gift of Mr. Cosmo Philip Boyer. 1965.5

This year marks the 100th anniversary of TMA and art of the American West has been a big part of its collections, exhibitions, and spirit of the institution. Here are some bits of history about the collection, the exhibition spaces, and supporters. First, do you know what the first Western artwork was in the collection? The first work in the collection categorized as art of the American West is George Catlin's *O-JIB-BE-WAYS*, 1845, two color lithograph, Gift of Mr. Cosmo Philip Boyer. 1965.5. While other artworks were inventoried in a different manner, this was the first catalogued using TMA's modern system using the year acquired (1965) with the number in sequence of that year (5th).



Ileen B. Campbell and Samuel J. Campbell Gallery installation photo ca. 1980s

When was the first “Art of the American West” exhibition? This genre has had a presence since the beginning. Through various Tucson Art Festival shows, Craft Shows, and Independent Artist Shows, imagery of the West was common. According to the museum’s history, one of the first exhibitions that focused on this geographic region occurred January 24 – February 7, 1954, with an “Indian Arts and Crafts” show.



Clara Fish in front of the Fish House, 1899

The cornerstone gift which helped establish the Art of the American West collection was the bequest of the Ileen B. and Samuel J. Collection in 1981. It consisted of 30 paintings, sculpture, and works on paper, and included artists such as Oscar Berninghaus, Nicolai Fechin, Frank Tenney Johnson, William R. Leigh, Olaf Wieghorst, and more. Because of this, for years the Art of the American West collection was referred to as the “Campbell Collection.” The gift stipulated that the collection had to remain on view for at least 10 months out of each year for 25 years. The “Campbell Gallery” was dedicated in 1983 and located in TMA’s main building on the lower level, now the Bernard and Jeannette Schmidt Gallery of Latin American Folk Art.



Goodman Pavilion installation, ca. 2007-2010

Over the next few decades, the collection continued to grow, and supporters in the community helped TMA establish another dedicated space, the John K. Goodman Pavilion, in 1998, in the Edward Nye Fish house, one of the historic properties on TMA's campus. It was named for John Goodman, avid supporter of Western Art and TMA. This space remained a primary gallery for art of the American West until 2017, when a new permanent collections space, the Frank and Jean Hamilton Gallery, was dedicated within the main building. However, the Goodman Pavilion has continued to intermittently display art of the American West, including *Enduring*

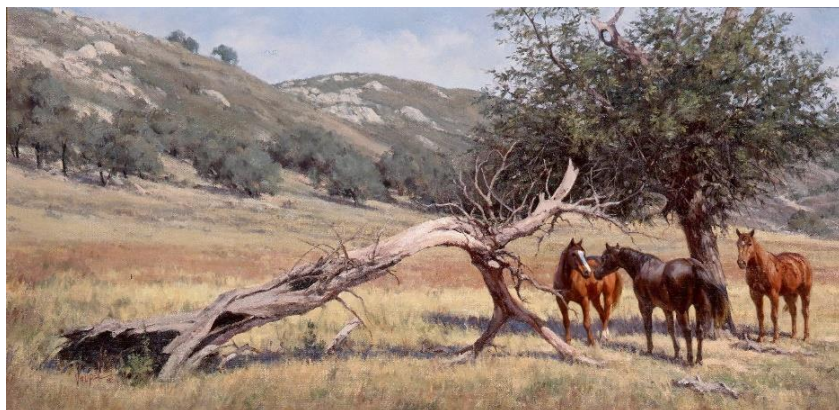
Legacies: The James T. Bialac Indigenous Art Collection, on view until March 17, 2024.

What contributions did TMA make to art of the American West? Between 1990-1997, TMA had an ongoing exhibition series, *Women Artists and the West: Show and Sale Invitational*. At the time, the annual Cowboy Artists of America exhibition was an exhibition for male artists. In response, *Women Artists and the West* was an alternative exhibition open to women. TMA acquired several pieces from these shows. This series helped lead to the establishment of the American Women Artists (AWA), an organization for women artists, patrons, and gallery owners throughout the United States and Canada.



Frank and Jean Hamilton Gallery installation 2017, as part of the reinstallation of TMA galleries

Who were our local supporters? Support from the local community of Western Art enthusiasts and artists has aided in the development of the collection and physical footprint of the genre at TMA. The Friends of Western Art had an association with TMA in the 1980s through the early



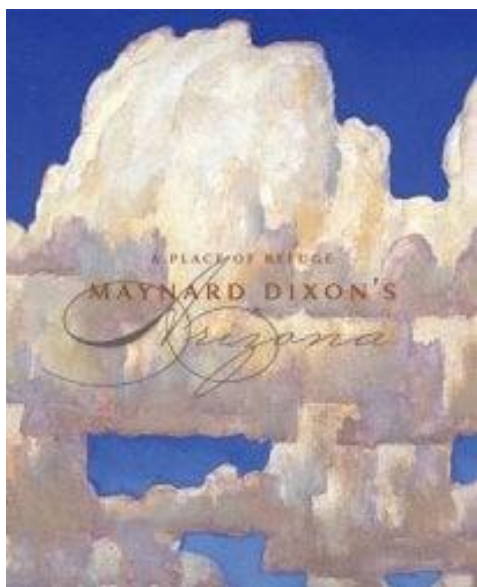
Barbara Vaupel, *Ranch Valley*, 1991, oil on linen, Museum Purchase from a *Women Artists and the West: Show and Sale Invitational*

2000s. For example, from 1998-2007 they worked with TMA on the Artist of the Year program which featured Western artists. They also underwrote exhibitions, the Goodman Pavilion renovation, and donated two works of art to the collection. TMA is thankful for all their contributions. When the Western Art Patrons were founded in 2007, they carried the torch to help continue to

assist the development of the collection and exhibitions, and their contributions to date amount to about \$425,000 in underwriting and art acquisitions.

In terms of staff in the early 21st century, Art of the American West curators of note include Thomas P. Smith (2007-2008), who is now the director of the Fred Jones, Jr. Museum at the University of Oklahoma. He curated *A Place of Refuge: Maynard Dixon's Arizona*. After he left TMA, Robert Knight (former CEO) and Julie Sasse, TMA Chief Curator, continued to create Western-related programming and exhibitions. During this interim period, the position of Art of

the American West curator was secured by an endowment from James and Louise Glasser in 2011, which lead to having Christine C. Brindza (2012-today) at the helm.



Catalogue cover for *A Place of Refuge: Maynard Dixon's Arizona*

Of course, this is a brief summation of many years of celebrating art of the American West at TMA. There are so many stories, events, exhibitions, supporters, and art that are a part of TMA's history. It has been a pleasure to be a part of TMA's history, develop the collection, and curate exhibitions for Tucson's community.

As we kick off the year of celebration, mark your calendars for the next exhibition that will open with the TMA Gala March 16, 2024: *Time Travelers: Foundations, Transformations, and Expansions at the Centennial* will include significant works in the TMA collection with many from the Art of the American West!

Christine C. Brindza, Glasser Curator

Upcoming Events Not to be Missed!

- **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. Register [HERE](#)

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

Eric Kaldahl, President and CEO of Amerind, will discuss American Art Form: A Century of Zuni and Navajo Jewelry with us and answer any questions about the Amerind collection. We will meet at the Finisterra clubhouse at 2:00. More information is to come.

- **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. Optional dinner at Café a la Cart is at 6:45. More information is to come.

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Special thanks to Eric Soulsby and Tony Garcia for photos shown in this newsletter.