



TUCSON MUSEUM of ART
WESTERN ART PATRONS

Newsletter: Spring 2024

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

11th Annual Cowboy Cantina Features Roseta Santiago



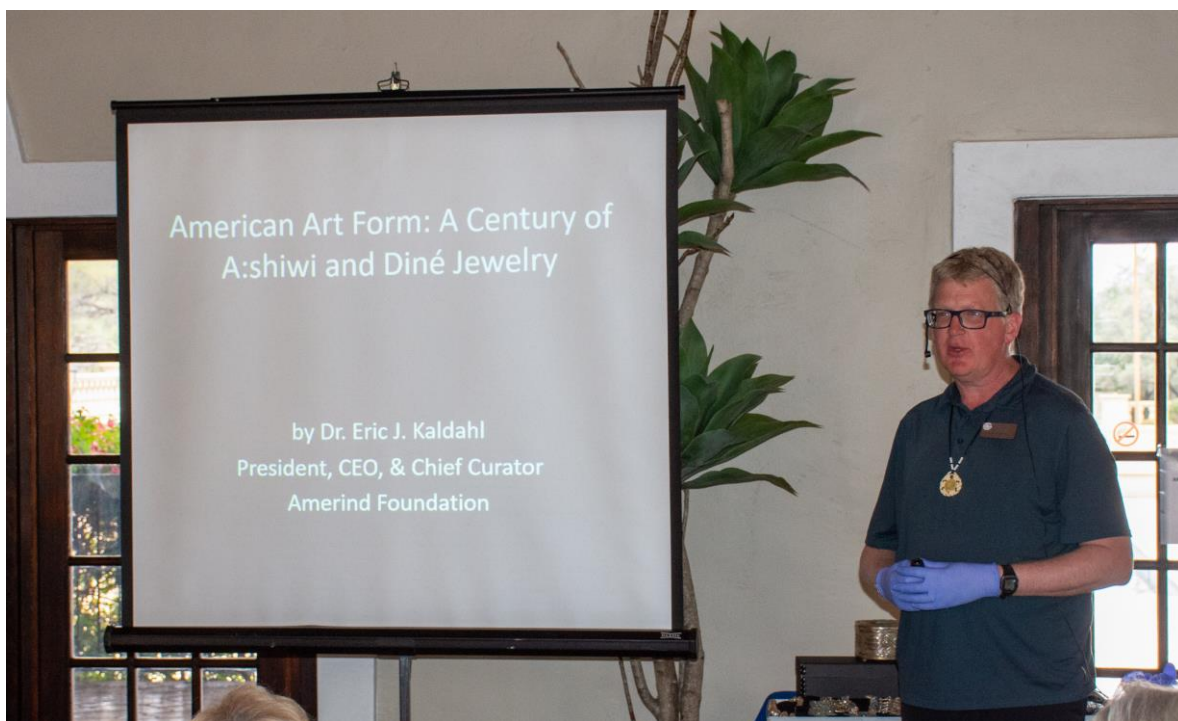
Roseta Santiago presenting her work at the Cowboy Cantina.

The Mountain Oyster Club was once again the setting for the Western Art Patrons Cowboy Cantina fundraiser on February 17, 2024. Seventy-four members enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner before being welcomed by Jerry Freund, who introduced WAP President Judy Betty. Judy introduced the TMA Director and Chief Executive Officer, Norah Diedrich, who is now in her second year at the museum. 2024 marks TMA's Centennial Celebration and Norah shared a brief history and indicated she was amazed when learning about its impressive history of collaboration with larger arts institutions and well-known artists. The museum's collection of 11,000 objects represents 3,000 years of art.

Christine Brindza, Senior Curator Art of the American West, then introduced our guest artist, Roseta Santiago. Roseta lives and paints every day in Santa Fe, New

Mexico. She met with the WAP travel group that visited Santa Fe and Taos in September 2023 and after meeting her, the group was enthusiastic about having her as a guest speaker. Christine described Roseta as a “self taught painter” and a “master of chiaroscuro”. Roseta introduced herself and showed examples of her work on display and in a slide presentation. She shared that she tries to show ordinary people and that she likes to see things from different angles. She had two paintings with her depicting Ty, one of her favorite Santa Fe female models. TMA has the painting *Journey to Blue Lake* which was donated by the artist. It depicts a young Taos Pueblo man saddling up for a pilgrimage to Blue Lake, a place for healing and ceremony. Once her presentation concluded, she opened it up to questions and a lively discussion ensued.

A Century of Zuni and Navajo Jewelry



Eric Kaldahl presents at Finisterra Clubhouse with samples of the Vander Wagen collection.

On Saturday afternoon, March 23, 45 WAP members gathered at the Finisterra Clubhouse to hear Dr. Eric Kaldahl discuss the history, development and art of Native American jewelry as created by Zuni and Navajo artists. Eric is the President and CEO of the Amerind Foundation which houses the Vander Wagen jewelry collection. This remarkable collection contains over 10,000 pieces, and



Christine shows each table examples of the Vander Wagen collection.

was nearly a century in the making by three generations of Vander Wagens. He has worked closely with the donors of this collection for over a decade. Eric discussed materials and techniques of Zuni and Navajo jewelry-making, highlighted unique pieces of jewelry in slides that demonstrated the various techniques. We were pleased that he brought originals of many of the pieces he described, which were then shown to the audience by his associate Kelly Holt and our own “Vanna White,” Christine Brindza. After the “show and tell,” he opened it up to questions from the attendees, including those regarding the marketing and pricing of Native American jewelry, both antique and contemporary.

A bounteous selection of treats from Nadine’s Bakery was enjoyed by WAP members along with beverages including prosecco, lemonade, and coffee. It was the perfect way to expand our knowledge of this unique Southwestern Native American craft on a lovely Saturday afternoon in March.

WAP Annual Meeting with Stephen Datz



Stephen Datz presenting his work and artistic process at the Annual Meeting.

The Western Art Patrons Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, April 29, 2024, at the Alice Chaiten Baker Center for Art Education, Tucson Museum of Art. Fifty members attended the meeting and 43 stayed for the optional dinner. WAP President, Judy Betty, welcomed TMA's CEO, Norah Diedrich, who introduced Meg Hagyard, the Director of Advancement and Strategic Initiatives at the Museum. Norah reviewed the calendar for the remainder of 2024/ 2025 which includes re-accreditation of the museum by the American Alliance of Museums and finishing the preservation of La Casa Cordova, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

During the President's Comments, Judy Betty recognized and thanked Phylis Carnahan for her years of contributions to WAP Board of Directors. Judy acknowledged the new members who have joined WAP this past year and introduced those present at the meeting. She also remembered the passing of Marilyn Steele, a longtime member of WAP. Judy called for approval of the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes, which were unanimously approved. She then introduced Christine Brindza, Senior Curator, Glasser Curator of Art of the American West.

Christine reviewed the installations of the past season and shared the exhibitions and projects planned for the remainder of 2024-2025. Jim Betty, Treasurer, covered the financials for WAP, which included the purchase of two photographs, *Pony Express Riders, Okmulgee, Oklahoma* by Ivan McClellan and *Last Indian Market* by Cara Romero for the TMA permanent collection. Connie Trecartin, chair of Travel & Events, shared the 2024-2025 season events, which kicks off with the trip to Montana, September 4-10, 2024. The WAP Opening Event is scheduled for Oct. 20, 2024 at the home of Jessie and Gary Van Ness with speaker, Terry DeWald. Several more fun and educational events are planned for the 2024-2025 season, which you can find later in this newsletter. Judy reported that WAP membership total is now 78 memberships or 133 individuals.



Members of the WAP Board electing new officers.

Following the reports, Judy called for a motion to approve new board members Heidi King and Robert Knight. Louise Glasser, Judy Betty, Connie Trecartin, and Linda Friedman were also approved for additional terms on the board. The Board convened to vote on the new slate of officers (listed in the President's Message).

The formal meeting was adjourned so that we could enjoy the special guest speaker Stephen C. Datz. Stephen shared his background and journey from novice to professional plein-air painter. He has been drawing his entire life. He focuses on landscapes because they intrigue him. His slide presentation was very informative and gave us an understanding of his technique and the steps he goes through to create a painting. The following quote from Stephen sums up his philosophy: "Plein-air painting is a personal journey of discovery through which I attempt to create paintings that carry within them the power and emotional content of my direct experiences." After Stephen finished taking questions from the audience, we adjourned and those who stayed for dinner enjoyed a wonderful buffet on the patio at Café à la C'Art. It was the perfect ending to a great WAP season.



WAP Members at Café a la C'Art after the Annual Meeting.

WAP President's Message

This season draws to an end on June 30, 2024, and of course Membership dues come due again July 1, and we do want all of you to re-join. It has been another year of wonderful presentations, travel and learning experiences, and social opportunities that abound!

The last event was our Annual Meeting, which included a superb presentation by Stephen Datz and dinner on the Cafe a la C'art patio with Tucson's best weather.

As of July 1, we have a new set of officers I'd like to introduce to you. Our new President will be Nancy Landes, Vice-President/Membership, Judy Betty, Treasurer, Jim Betty, and Secretary/Historian, Susan Mansfield. Connie Trecartin will continue as Chairperson of Travel and Events and Rachel Sattinger will be the Newsletter collector. The Nominations Committee includes Susan Mansfield, Chairperson, and Jim Betty and Rexene Andrlle members.

If you have friends interested in Western Art Patrons, we will have two open events. Bring them to the Holiday Party which will be held at the Mountain Oyster Club this year on Saturday, December 7, or to our Membership Drive on January 18, at the White Stallion Ranch when Jerry Freund will talk about his Navajo Wearing Blankets.

I hope to see you at our Opening Event at the home of Jessie and Gary Van Ness on Oct 20, 2024. Terry DeWald will talk about their baskets and rugs, with refreshments by Feast. It will be so nice to see everyone after the summer break.

It's been a pleasure serving as your President the last three years. I've worked with a dedicated Board and that includes our staff liaison, Christine, who makes everything we do look so much better. AND the Western Art Patrons have to be the nicest most interesting people in town!

As I told the Board, this has been a rewarding experience and I recommend it!

Warm Regards,

Judy Betty, WAP President



Changing of the guard: Judy Betty, outgoing president and Nancy Landes, incoming president.

Curator's Corner

Community Curation and Expanding the Art of the American West



Detail of the cover of the Toolkit.

Over the past four years, many WAP members have heard about the *Expanding Narratives* project that used community curation. This approach of working with communities—from exhibition concept to installation to programming—communicates a monumental impact of how museums can develop relationships

with the audiences it serves, create more relevant exhibitions, and build meaningful collections.

Today, the effect of community curation is visible in several of TMA's galleries, including the Indigenous Arts gallery, the Hamilton gallery featuring *People of the West*, and the Maxfield gallery presenting *Southwest Art: Contemporary Conversations*. This work has led to the publication [*Community-Based Curation: A Toolkit for Expanding Narratives and Changing Practices*](#), a "how-to" guide that is gaining traction throughout the country with TMA at the forefront. I invite you to check out this collaboratively authored toolkit. It may give insight into the exhibition process that everyday museumgoers may not realize.



Installation of Southwest Art: Contemporary Conversations at TMA, the latest gallery to showcase community curation.

In addition to impacting the museum field, the toolkit signifies the ongoing expansion in understandings of the art of the American West. Through this project, we have been able to broaden the definition of this art form as a place-based genre that is not limited to certain ideas and art types, but one that examines the intersections of identities, cultures, and histories in this unique region.

By moving beyond traditional ideas and having multiple conversations about what a 21st century vision of art of the American West can be, the museum is able to engage with more

visitors who in the past may not have felt that this kind of art was “for them.” This positions TMA to be responsive to community needs as well as honor the foundations of art of the American West.

The coming exhibition, *Of Legacy and Divergence: Art of the American West in the 21st Century (2025)* will build upon what we’ve learned and focus on this collection using a community curation format. Stay tuned for more information on this project!

As always, the Western Art Patrons is invaluable as these exhibitions and projects continue at the museum. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Christine C. Brindza

WAP Welcomes New Members

We offer a warm welcome to the following members who joined since July 1, 2023:

Jennie Bennett

Laurie Iwatake

Susan Buchroeder

Joshua and Heidi King

Carolyn and August DeLuca

Ellen Levey and Lawrence Selig

Susan Freund

Cindy Secker

Katherine Frith

Susan and Charlie Waggoner

Sheila Henry

WAP 2024-2025 Season Tentative Schedule

September 4-10, 2024. Trip to Montana. The itinerary includes Great Falls, Kalispell, Whitefish and Big Fork, visiting museums, having artist presentations, and touring private art collections. The trip is fully booked.

October 20, 2024. Opening Event Held at the home of Jessie and Gary Van Ness. Terry DeWald, the speaker, will talk about baskets and rugs in the Van Ness collection.

November 2024. Talk by Diane Dittmore, curator at the Arizona State Museum. She will speak on indigenous baskets and has recently written a book about them. Date forthcoming.

December 7, 2024. WAP Holiday Party. Held at the Mountain Oyster Club

January 18, 2025. The Gift of Spider Woman, a presentation by Jerry Freund about Navajo Wearing Blankets. Held at the White Stallion Ranch.

February 23, 2025. Cowboy Cantina, with Cara Romero as our speaker. Held at TMA.

March 20, 2025. Tour of the exhibit *Of Legacy and Divergence: Art of the American West in the 21st Century*, curated by Christine Brindza, who will lead the tours.

April 28, 2025. WAP Annual Meeting Held at TMA.

Western Art Patrons Board of Directors

Judy Betty, President

Dan Kimball, Vice-President

Jim Betty, Treasurer

Phylis Carnahan, Secretary

Connie Trecartin, Events and Travel
Chair

Rachel Sattinger, Membership Chair

Nancy Landes, Newsletter Editor and
Historian

Susan Mansfield-Garcia, Board of
Directors Nominating Committee
Chair

Linda Friedman

Louise Glasser

Heidi King

Eric Soulsby

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