



TUCSON MUSEUM of ART WESTERN ART PATRONS

Newsletter: Spring 2025

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

Kick off to the Spring Season



Jerry explains the construction of a Diné weaving blanket while Connie and Robert hold it for the group to see.

On January 18, 2025, there were 57 Western Art Patrons gathered to hear Jerry Freund give a very informative presentation entitled “The Gift of Spider Woman.” The event was held at St. Phillip’s in the Hills Episcopal Church with afternoon savories and sweets catered by Eclectic Café. The Navajos believe Spider Woman gave the Navajo women the gift of weaving. From about 1868 to 1880 the women wove blankets for men, women and children. Jerry’s collection featured these weaving blankets.

Jerry had Robert Knight and Connie Trecartin modeled beautiful blankets from his collection. It felt like Jerry gave members a college course. The lecture lasted two hours but could have gone on for another hour. The patterns in Navajo blankets and rugs are balanced to represent balance in life of mind, body and spirit. A person needs a balanced life to walk in beauty in front, back, sides and all around. Jerry, thank you for giving a wonderful presentation.



Connie (left) and Robert (right) model the wearing blankets and make them available for the crowd to touch

Western Art Patrons Attend Settler's West American Miniatures Preview

The annual Miniatures Show at Settlers West Galleries was a good time to get together and socialize and preview the show for many Western Art Patrons on February 6, 2025. This event was in conjunction with the Foothills Art District "First Thursday." Landscapes, people, animals and still lifes were the subjects of small original paintings and sculptures by more than 160 artists. Thirty WAP members enjoyed this beautiful art as well as refreshments and conversations. Some of our members placed bids on the art. Were they selected? Let us know if there are now new artworks gracing your walls or bookshelves.

WAP Tour of Divergence of Legacy: Art of the American West in the 21st Century.

Twenty-six members of Western Art Patrons joined TMA's Glasser Senior Curator, Christine Brindza, for an in-depth tour of Tucson Museum of Art's newest exhibition, ***Divergence of Legacy: Art of the American West in the 21st Century.***

Divergence of Legacy is a new look of what defines "The Art of the West." Working with community curators, the exhibit honors traditional Western Art and gives us a look at new interpretations of the West. Curation with members of the community is a new concept for museums and the Tucson Museum of Art is on the forefront of this practice, receiving accolades from other museums.



Christine leads the tour first in Divergence of Legacy

By listening to Senior Curator Christine Brindza we were able to understand connections between the art and hear stories that highlight the exhibition. The themes explained and expanded our ideas about the people, history, and cultures of the region. Especially interesting was the wall that shows paintings that feature Tucson, from the very oldest of the old to more contemporary, including *The Convento Ruins, Tucson, Arizona* by Alfred Lambourne, 1880, to *Boboquivari* by Lone Wolf, 1919, to *Tucson Low Rider*, 1983 by Vivian Mallette Hutchins, and to a painting honoring Tucson's dark skies, *Tucson from Mt. Lemmon Highway*, 1990 by Deann Melton.

Several members mentioned how much they enjoyed the tour because they never would have learned as much from wandering through the exhibition on their own. A guided tour really emphasizes the connections between art and how they relate to one another. WOW! It was amazing to learn and understand what our curator does and all the thought and preparation that goes into hanging an exhibition.

For the second part of the tour the group headed to the lower level of the museum to see the Hamilton Gallery of Art of the West and the Indigenous gallery. Hamilton Gallery of the American West was



Top: Linda leads a group through Indigenous Arts
Bottom: Katherine discusses the Ed Mell's Jack Knife in the Hamilton gallery

toured with long time docents and WAP members Katherine Scoggin-Sobonya and Linda Friedman. Katherine led the way with her rip-roaring western music as we headed down the ramp. Katherine and half of the group toured the Western Gallery and Linda toured the Indigenous Gallery.

We were so pleased to welcome six new WAP members to our group. Members were actively engaged in looking at the art and left with a new appreciation of *Divergence and Legacy*, as well as the collection galleries.

Be sure to visit the galleries, we think you, too, will be really impressed!
From the old to the new, from

Indigenous art to cowboys and cowgirls to landscapes to pottery and folk art this exhibition has something for everyone.

WAP Annual Meeting with Julia Arriola

The WAP Annual Meeting was held on Monday, April 28, 2025 at the Baker Center, Tucson Museum of Art. Forty-eight members attended the meeting and 36 stayed for the optional dinner. WAP President, Nancy Landes, welcomed Christopher Gordon, TMA's Interim Director and CEO/CFO/COO. Chris started by thanking all the members for their support for underwriting and acquisitions, especially for being the presenting sponsor for *Divergence of Legacy: Art of the American West of the 21st Century*. Chris outlined upcoming exhibits for 2025-2026. Chris also shared that the Board of Trustees had approved the hiring of a new Director & CEO, Anne Breckenridge Barrett.

During the President's Comments, Nancy Landes shared a brief overview of the past year and thanked the WAP Board and Travel & Events committee for their hard work organizing the 2024/2025 events. Nancy also congratulated Christine for successfully defending her dissertation and earning her PhD. WAP has 133 members and 86 memberships. Nancy encouraged all in attendance to renew their WAP membership in June for the coming year and to consider the top Patron and Benefactor levels.

Nancy called for approval of the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes, which were unanimously approved.



Julia Arriola presents her work and career to the WAP membership.

She then introduced Christine Brindza, Senior Curator, Art of the American West. Christine reviewed the past year's work, including the publication of *Community-Based Curation: A Toolkit for Expanding Narratives and Changing Practices*, and the latest project involving eight community curators to develop the *Divergence of Legacy: Art of the American West of the 21st Century*. Christine and Marianna Pegno received the Impact Award from the American Alliance of Museums for the Toolkit for Community Curation, and Christine and Marianna won the Impact Award for the Western Museums Association Conference. Congratulations on these well-deserved awards!



Susan Hayes and Katherine Scoggin-Sobonya chat before the meeting

Jim Betty, Treasurer, covered the financials which included WAP's commitment of \$20,000 for the upcoming year beginning July 1, 2025, with \$10,000 going to underwrite the *Arizona Biennial* and \$5,000 each to refresh the Hamilton Gallery and the Indigenous Arts Gallery.

Connie Trecartin, chair of Travel & Events, shared the 2025-2026 season events, which kicks off with the trip to the Coeur d'Alene Art Auction in Reno, NV, July 23 – 27. The WAP opening event is scheduled for Oct. 26, 2025, at the Baker Education Center, with Christine Brindza as our presenting speaker. Many more fun and educational events are planned for the 2025- 2026 season, which you can find later in this newsletter.

Following the reports, Nancy called for a motion to approve new board member, Mark Friefeld. Mark was approved and the Board convened to vote on the new slate of officers.

The formal meeting was adjourned so that we could enjoy the special guest speaker, Julia Arriola. Christine introduced Julia Arriola, a Mescalero Apache / Mayo multi-talented artist. Julia discussed her initial training as a sculptor and spoke of her long-time friendship with TMA.



Julia Arriola: (Top) *We Need to Give a Damn: She Lived She Inspired* in TMA's collection; (bottom) Meg Hagyard and Kit Kimball at the café dinner after the lecture

She gifted *We Need to Give a Damn: She Lived, She Inspired*, multimedia sculpture, and *Remember Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*, colored pencil on a copy of a 1796 print map of the Americas. She served on TMA's Collections Committee and was a Community Curator for two projects. Julia now lives in Albuquerque NM. She considers herself a storyteller and fell in love with ledger art because of its history as a way of preserving Indigenous cultures when old ledger paper was the only material available during the Reservation period. Therefore, ledger art makes her sad, but she is also glad to carry on this rich tradition.

Julia explained how she became interested in steampunk and joined the Tucson Steampunk Society. She loves the 19th century and likes to mix up the themes with gears and coyotes, plus the Rez Dogs are usually drummers. Her first ledger drawing was a response to John Gast's 1872 painting *American Progress* (aka Manifest Destiny) depicting the Hopi Maiden bringing blessings, rain and corn. Julia also loves carousel horses and has done several ledger paintings of them. Her dad was Mescalero Apache and she always thought of him as a Koshare. Julia's ledger work has been an incredible journey for her. She didn't think she'd be able to see any of it, but the journey is still unfolding.

Curator's Corner

As I reflect on this past year, it has been a whirlwind. Being the solo curator at TMA has been the most challenging and rewarding of my professional career. With all this, I also finished my dissertation, and on May 18, I attended my convocation and was officially hooded as a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Arizona.

There have been many cheerleaders in the Western Art Patrons who enthusiastically checked on my progress, asking how I was doing throughout the program. The WAP Board even changed their meeting dates and times as my school schedule would conflict. The encouragement and understanding were appreciated as I completed each milestone.

Now, as I have begun a new chapter, I want to thank all of you for your support. It is wonderful to have friends and supporters like you!

—Christine C. Brindza, Ph.D.

President's Message

The season draws to an end on June 30, 2025 and we already have plans for a wonderful 2025 - 2026 season. It has been an exciting year full of interesting presentations, travel and learning experiences plus many opportunities to socialize. I hope you will all rejoin by **July 1** when the new season starts. The last event was our Annual Meeting, which included a wonderful presentation by Julia Arriola and dinner at the Cafe a la C'art patio. The prior event was a stimulating discussion between Christine and Cara Romero at TMA, which was highlighted in a recent special edition newsletter. We are so fortunate to have these opportunities to interact with well-known artists at TMA. If you have friends interested in Western Art Patrons, don't hesitate to invite them to some of our larger events so that they can experience it in person.

As of July 1, our WAP officers include: President, 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 Heidi King will be the newsletter editor. The Nominations Committee includes Robert Knight, Chairperson and Jim Betty and Rexene Andrlle.

I hope to see you at our Opening Event on Sunday, October 26, 2025. Our speaker will be Christine Brindza, and her topic will be "Straight from the Chuck-Line Rider: A Little Western Art Gossip". Join us for her titillating talk using slides and examples of art from the museum collection at the TMA Baker Education Center, with lunch on the patio.

Have a wonderful summer and we'll see you in October!

Regards,

Nancy Landes/ WAP President



Western Art Patrons at the 2025 TMA Gala

SAVE THE DATE
Tentative WAP Events for 2025-2026

July 23-27, 2025

Trip to the Coeur d'Alene Art Auction in Reno, Nevada.

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Opening Event; TMA, Baker Education Center with lunch on the patio

Speaker: Christine Brindza, "Straight from the Chuck-Line Rider: A Little Western Art Gossip"

Saturday, November 15, 2025

Studio Tour of photographers Alanna Airitam and Wayne Martin Belger; brunch

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Holiday Party at the home of Rachel and Stephen Sattinger; dinner

Mid-January, 2026

A Touch of Turquoise: presentation by Christine and Scott Logan

February 21, 2026

Cowboy Cantina: Artist Speaker William Haskell; at Mountain Oyster Club

Early March, 2026

Bus Trip to the Phoenix Art Museum to visit the Cara Romero exhibition, Chemehuevi contemporary art photographer

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Home Tours of Tula & Michel Thompson and Howard & Marilyn Post

Monday, April 27, 2026

Annual Meeting; TMA Baker Education Center

Speaker: Feng-Feng Yeh, Founder Chinese Chorizo project and community curator

Welcome to New Members!

Joined Between July 1, 2024- May 2025

Lynn Bullock
Sharon Burns
Fran Calene
Viviane and James Egbert
Tina Frey
Gail and Michael Goode
Lenore and James Kolhoff

Pamela Ledgerwood
David Luery
Laurel Matias
Suzanne Strauss
Larry May and Sandy Wells
Linda Van Straaten

Western Art Patrons Board of Directors

Nancy Landes, President
Judy Betty, Vice-President and Membership
Jim Betty, Treasurer
Susan Mansfield- Garcia, Secretary and Historian
Connie Trecartin, Travel and Events Chair
Mark Friefeld Communications Officer
Heidi King
Robert Knight, Board of Directors
Nominating Committee Chair

Jerry Freund
Linda Friedman
Louise Glasser
Dan Kimball
Rachel Sattinger
Eric Soulsby
Christine Brindza, Senior Curator,
Art of the American West

Travel and Events Committee

Nancy Abrams
Rexene Andrie
Jim Betty
Judy Betty
Christine Brindza
Phylis Carnahan
Linda Ender
Jerry Freund
Linda Friedman
Mark Friefeld

Susie Hayes
Heidi King
Nancy Landes
Marlene Salvatore
Nick Salvatore
Rachel Sattinger
Tula Thompson
Connie Trecartin

Thank you to our article contributors and photographers: Phylis Carnahan, Linda Friedman, Nancy Landes, Susan Mansfield, Mark Friefeld, Tony Garcia, and Eric Soulsby.

Don't Forget to RENEW your membership for next season starting July 1!



TUCSON MUSEUM of ART
WESTERN ART PATRONS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (YEAR JULY 1–JUNE 30)

(New members from February 1–June 30, your membership extends through June 30. No payment is due.)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email(s) for all members who want to be contacted: _____

You must be a member of the Tucson Museum of Art (TMA) to be a Western Art Patrons (WAP) Member.

1. Please select the option that applies to you:

- ☐ I would like to renew my membership to both TMA and WAP (if so, go to #2)
☐ My TMA membership is active or will be renewed when it comes time to do so (if so, go to #3)

2. I would like to renew my TMA Museum membership at the following level:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Director's Circle \$1250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dual/Family \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ambassador's Circle \$2500 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> President's Circle \$500 | |

3. I would like to renew my WAP membership at the following level:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dual/Family \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 |

Total TMA membership \$ _____

Total WAP membership \$ _____

I would like to make a voluntary donation:

WAP Exhibition Underwriting Fund \$ _____

WAP Art Acquisition Fund \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

All WAP membership levels and donations are 100% tax deductible. TMA memberships are tax deductible less the value of any benefits or services received.

See <https://www.tucsonmuseumofart.org/membership/> for deduction amounts. WAP membership information is for use by TMA and WAP Board of Directors only and will not be released to other members or elsewhere.

Form of Payment:

- ☐ Check (made payable to TMA-WAP)
☐ Credit card via TMA website (<https://www.tucsonmuseumofart.org/western-art-patrons/>)
☐ Credit card via telephone: Call TMA Membership Office at 520.616.2699

If paying by check, please return this form with payment to:

TMA-WAP • Tucson Museum of Art • 140 N. Main Avenue • Tucson, AZ 85701