



# TUCSON MUSEUM of ART

## WESTERN ART PATRONS

### Newsletter: Auction Trip & Fall 2025

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



*Western Art Patrons outside the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, Nevada*

Twenty-three WAP members began our summer trip with a glass of wine in the Crystal Lounge and a group orientation from Eric Pilato of the Grand Sierra Resort of Reno, Nevada. That evening we enjoyed a robust dinner at RIM Asian Bistro at the resort.



Day 2 started with an engaging curator-led tour of the National Automobile Museum. The museum has over 200 cars in 4 galleries, including a 24kt gold plated DeLorean built for American Express. This was a very popular museum tour.

After the Automobile Museum we had lunch at the Washoe Public House (those waffle fries were great) and then we were off to the Nevada Museum of Art. There was a special exhibit of paintings by Indigenous artist Judith Lowry.

Judith's art chronicles the stories of her family and the legends, traditions, and complexities of her Indigenous ancestry. We ended our day with a delicious dinner at Charlie Palmer Steak.



Day 3 started with WAP members touring the RiverWalk of Reno on their own. That evening Stuart Johnson of Settlers West Gallery introduced us to the auction items and the auction's special cocktail party. Gosh, what fun to drink and talk as you walk around 354 pieces of Western art. There was something for everyone. The artworks looked great in the catalogue, but in person they were fantastic!

We started our final day with a brunch before the main auction started at noon. The auctioneers had over 300 paintings to sell in 5 hours and they tried to sell one a minute! The auction was fascinating and a wonderful way to end our trip to Reno.



*Thank you to Nancy Abrams for the article and Eric Soulsby for the photographs*



## Curator's Corner with Christine C. Brindza, Ph.D

James and Louise Glasser Senior Curator, Art of the American West

### A Fresh Look for the Art of the American West Gallery

As Senior Curator of Art of the American West, my primary responsibilities include the display, interpretation, and care of this collection. While my duties have extended to all museum holdings and exhibitions over the past year and a half, I continued to work on various ventures in this discipline. For example, last spring's *Divergence of Legacy: Art of the American West of the 21st Century* exhibition brought the Art of the American West collection into a new light as a feature exhibition, and one that was community-curated. My colleague Marianna Pegno and I worked with a cohort of community curators that determined themes, chose artworks, and wrote interpretive material. The result was an exhibition that broadened how art of the American West can be viewed by today's audiences. What many may not have realized is that this was part of a larger project—and this was only Phase One!

Now TMA is preparing for a reinstatement of the Frank and Jean Hamilton Gallery, opening November 6, 2025. Using information gathered from *Divergence of Legacy*, including stakeholder convenings and meetings of community curators, survey data, and other materials, we are planning a refreshed look that considers local relevancy, historical and contemporary stories, and multiple perspectives. Working with the same group of community curators as before, the discussion about artwork choices and themes has centered on regionality, materiality, and stewardship, with an examination of how art of the American West can be defined in our time.

Simultaneously, we are producing a publication about the Art of the American West collection that features essays, artist reflections, and community curator contributions. It considers the history of this genre, how it has evolved, and is interpreted at TMA. Its anticipated availability for sale in the TMA store is January 2026. Stay tuned for more information about this reinstatement and publication.



WAP is a sponsor of the Hamilton Gallery reinstatement, and we are grateful for your ongoing support!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Tentative WAP Events for 2025-2026**

**Sunday, October 26, 2025 at 12:00pm**

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 at 10:00am**

Studio Tour of photographers Alanna Airitam and Wayne Martin Belger; pastries & coffee

**Thursday, November 20, 2025 10:30am**

Meet Jane Hamilton at Jane Hamilton Fine Art gallery

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

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

**January 11, 2026 4:00pm**

Patrons & Benefactors Party at the home of Heidi & Josh King, happy hour

**January 24, 2026 at 12:00pm**

TMA, Baker Education Center with lunch on the patio

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 - “Living Light”  
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

# Western Art Patrons Board of Directors

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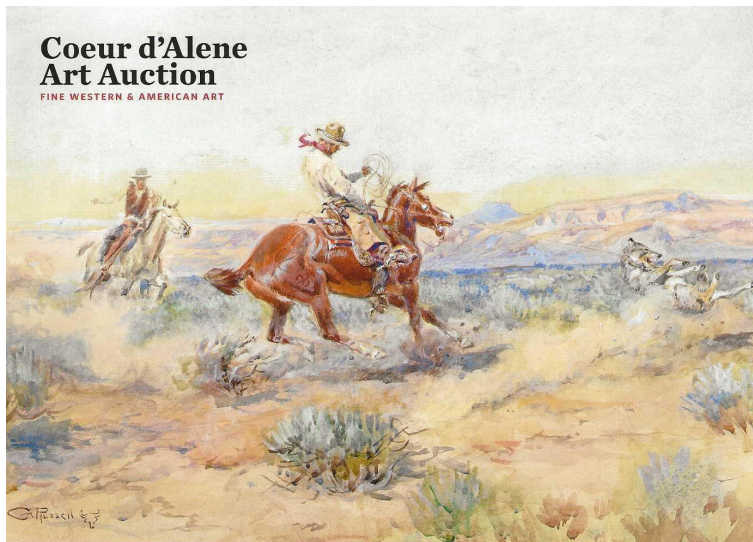
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**Coeur d'Alene  
Art Auction**

FINE WESTERN & AMERICAN ART

## Who are the Western Art Patrons?

**WAP** is an affinity group that supports exhibitions, programs, and art acquisitions for the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block, focusing on the celebration and exploration of art of the American West and Indigenous arts.