



TUCSON MUSEUM of ART
WESTERN ART PATRONS

Newsletter: Winter 2026

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

Western Art Patrons Opening Event - October 26, 2025



Christine Brindza, TMA Senior Curator & WAP Liaison, presenting "A Little Western Art Gossip"

Shhhh! Straight from the Chuck-line Rider: A Little Western Art Gossip

For the WAP Opening Event, TMA Senior Curator and WAP liaison, Christine Brindza was the speaker, and she presented "Straight from the Chuck-line Rider: A Little Western Art Gossip." She made it interactive for the audience and invited them to participate. When she used phrases like, "Now get this" WAP would respond, "Tell us more!" or "You didn't hear it from me" the audience replied, "Shhhh!".

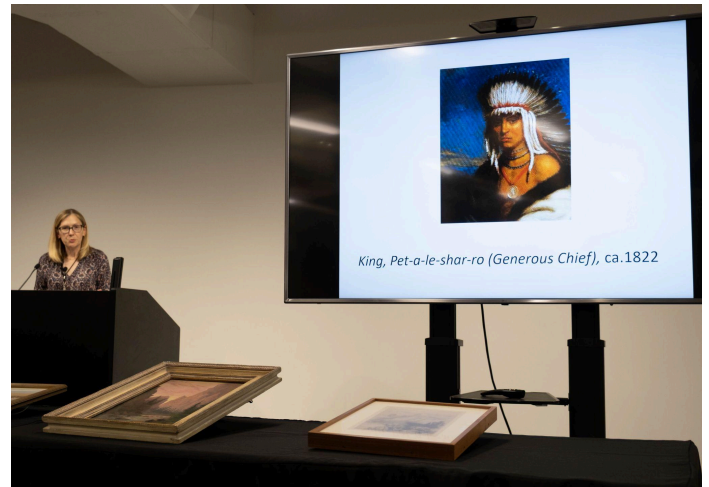
Christine told tales of early Western artists using slides and artworks from the TMA collection. In the beginning she talked about Charles Bird King and George Catlin. Both men were important artists who were painting Native American portraits and pictorially documenting the lives of Native Americans in the early to mid-1800s.



Christine Brindza, TMA Senior Curator & WAP Liaison

We learned about the wild life of Charles M Russell and his family, and the short life of Frederic Remington. Christine talked about the start of the Taos Society of Artists in 1915, and the story of the “Broken Wagon Wheel”. She had examples of work by Joseph Henry Sharp and Maynard Dixon, an important 20th century painter who lived and worked in Tucson toward the end of his life.

In the second half of her talk, Christine shifted gears to discuss ongoing research related to collections at TMA. She presented information on Thomas Moran and how his work helped inspire Congress to establish Yellowstone as the first national park. The museum has a print on silk that is presumed to be by Moran, as well as a painting attributed to the artist that was likely not authentic. She also talked about the work of Frederic Remington, and how his work was often forged.



Christine Brindza, TMA Senior Curator & WAP Liaison



Anne Breckenridge Barrett, TMA Director & CEO with WAP members

Christine explained the process the museum goes through to verify if a painting is authentic. There are many methods of connoisseurship that curators and staff must utilize such as X-rays, black lighting, and examining the artist’s painting techniques. The presentation was lively and informative.

Before the program we had lunch on the patio and the food was catered by Feast.

Studio Tour of photographers Alanna Airitam and Wayne Martin Belger Saturday, November 15

Twenty-six Western Art Patrons visited the studios of Alanna Airitam and Wayne Martin Belger. Their studios are located in the Iron Horse Neighborhood near downtown. They are storytellers with their photographic art. Alanna mostly uses digital images. She has a series called *The Golden Age* which are portraits of Black people in very classical poses. She also took photographs of *The Chosen Few*, the first racially integrated motorcycle club founded in 1959. Their portraits were taken with an idyllic Hudson River landscape backdrop held up with clips or by fellow members in a natural setting. These photographs show the strength and the dignity of the men. She has also focused on history or people that have been forgotten or removed, juxtaposed with photographs of the future.



Artist Alanna Airitam



Artist Wayne Martin Belger

Wayne designs and manufactures cameras that he uses in his photographic art. He is invited to places around the world to spend time with marginalized people, to tell their stories. The cameras are made from metal, sometimes wood, and he incorporates items that are significant to the people he is photographing. Because of this, the people trust him. He usually shoots film

and then he prints the photographs. He showed us pictures of his cameras and his photographs. One of his projects that was fascinating was his work in Mummy Cave in Canyon de Chelly that had not been visited by any non-Native person for many years.



WAP members at the artists' studio

Jane Hamilton Fine Art Gallery - November 20

On November 20th, WAP members visited the Jane Hamilton Fine Art Gallery located in the Plaza Colonial retail center at the southwest corner of E Skyline Dr and N Campbell Ave in the Tucson Foothills Art District. Jane Hamilton welcomed WAP members to her gallery “currently celebrating thirty-three years” which features thirty-five regional and nationally acclaimed artists. She shared insights from a



Jerry Freund, Jennie Bennett, artist Sean Wallis & Jane Hamilton



Eric Soulsby & Connie Trecartin

memoir she is writing about her forty-six years as an art dealer in the southwestern United States. Jane discussed her travels in the gallery world, which included comments about her time in Bisbee prior to relocating to Tucson and how gallery visitors changed over time.

On a rainy morning, twenty-two WAP members enjoyed the bright colors of Jane’s gallery while viewing many pieces of fine art on display. WAP members were also able to visit other galleries in that location including Philabaum Glass Gallery, Journey West Gallery and Wilde Meyer Gallery.



Jane Hamilton

Holiday Party at the home of Rachel & Stephen Sattinger

December 7th was a beautiful day in Tucson and the Western Art Patrons took advantage to celebrate with a Holiday Party at Rachel and Stephen Sattinger's Ranch. The bar was the first space encountered upon entering the Sattinger's home where Jim Betty welcomed everyone with a celebratory beverage. The Sattinger's home is filled with wonderful art and the newly renovated outdoor space was



August & Carolyn DeLuca, Nancy Landes, Susan Waggoner & Ed Landes



Bonnie Bradford, Sheila Henry & Kathleen Sublette

TMA's new **Chief of Curatorial and Convergent Practice**. Christine Brindza, **Senior Curator of Art of the American West** and her husband Eric also joined us, which gave us an opportunity to thank her for her longtime help and support for WAP.

beautiful and welcoming. The weather was perfect, nice enough to mingle inside and out while meeting with old friends and new members.

The new members that joined us included Vivian and James Egbert, Sandy Wells and Larry May along with relatively new members Jane Hamilton and Frances Calene. We were delighted that Meg Jackson Fox and her husband Nick joined us, which gave everyone a chance to meet



Eric & Christine Brindza with Susan Mansfield

The Holiday Party continued...



To add to the festive atmosphere, the talented Chris Minker made wonderful music and entertained us throughout the night. He has played western music all of his life and you might have seen him at Mountain Oyster Club, where he has performed for the past many years.

The delicious Hors d'oeuvres Buffet was catered by Gallery of Food and included a brimming cheese board, mesquite smoked salmon cakes, thinly sliced beef, chicken skewers and more, followed by holiday cookies for dessert.



Joe Zamudio, Rachel Sattinger, Mark Sublette & Jane Hamilton

Thank you to the party planners and the WAP Board of Directors for making this event possible. Everyone enjoyed the chance to mingle in this great setting. We can't thank Rachel and Stephen Sattinger enough for once again sharing their beautiful home with WAP at holiday time.

Patrons & Benefactors Party, January 11th



Josh & Heidi King with Judy Betty

The WAP Board hosted its first Patrons/Benefactors cocktail party January 11, at the home of Heidi and Josh King. Thirty-eight members joined us for delicious bites prepared by Gallery of Food and select wines and French champagne were generously poured by

WAP member Pam Ledgerwood, family member of hosts Heidi and Josh King.

By all reports and appearances fun was had by all including Jon Ender celebrating his birthday.



Kit Kimball, Judy Betty & Katherine Scoggin-Sobonya



Jon Ender, Jim Betty, Mark Sublette, Kenneth Snipper & Dan Kimball

Membership Director, Judy Betty, noted membership in the Patron and Benefactor categories increased substantially this fall with the announcement of the upcoming party. The Board concluded this definitely should be an annual event for the WAP patrons and benefactors.

President's Message - Nancy Landes

Happy New Year!

We had a successful fall 2025 season and are looking forward to more WAP adventures in 2026. Please join us for as many events as fit on your calendar as we have an exciting line-up of events. Our events include a January lunch and a presentation "Touch of Turquoise" by Scott and Christine Logan.

We are all looking forward to our annual fundraiser, "Cowboy Cantina" on February 21 at the Mountain Oyster Club. Our featured artist will be William Haskell. William Haskell is a visionary in modern Southwest art, capturing the region's essence through a contemporary lens. He is also featured in a current exhibit opening January 16 at Medicine Man Gallery, "William Haskell: *Visions of the Sacred Desert.*"

SAVE THE DATE

Tentative WAP Events for 2025-2026

January 24, 2026 at 12:00pm

TMA, Baker Education Center with lunch on the patio

A Touch of Turquoise: presentation by Scott and Christine Logan

February 21, 2026

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

March 7, 2026

Bus Trip to the Phoenix Art Museum to visit the Cara Romero exhibition - "Living Light" contemporary art photographer and a visit to artist Merrill Mahaffey's studio

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Home Tour of Tula & Michel Thompson private collection

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

Nancy Landes, President

Judy Betty, Vice President & Membership

Jim Betty, Treasurer

Katherine Scoggin-Sobonya, Secretary

Connie Trecartin, Travel & Events Chair

Mark Friefeld, Communications Officer

Eric Soulsby, Historian

Heidi King, Newsletter

Christine Brindza, Senior Curator - Art of the American West

Jerry Freund

Linda Friedman

Louise Glasser

Dan Kimball

Gwen Porter

Rachel Sattinger

A special **thank you** to our members who contributed to this newsletter!
Your assistance is greatly appreciated

Articles: Christine Brindza, Judy Betty, Nancy Landes,
Eric Soulsby, Phylis Carnahan & Connie Trecartin

Photos: Mark Friefeld & Tony Garcia



WAP Patrons & Benefactors at the 1/11/26 Party