



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***FAC Legacy Series: Frank Mechau***

### **His Horses Galloped on the Foundations of the Fine Arts Center**

**COLORADO SPRINGS (Feb 25, 2016)** — The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) announces a major exhibition dedicated to the art of Frank Mechau (1904-1946). Colorado artist Frank Mechau is among the greatest artists associated with early 20<sup>th</sup> century development of American Art and the FAC's first decades. This third major offering in the *FAC Legacy Series*, runs March 5 through May 15.

This exhibition will explore Mechau's uniquely western vision through a selection of approximately 60 paintings, drawings and prints spanning the artist's career and our very own courtyard mural *Wild Horses*. Mechau grew up on the Western Slope of Colorado and studied a spectrum of historic and Modern art forms in New York, Paris and throughout Europe. Mechau believed that his "findings in the history of art and aesthetics converged toward the American scene," prompting him back to Colorado to contribute to the development of uniquely American style and subject matter.

Mechau taught for the FAC Art School from 1937-38 on the heels of the Broadmoor Art Academy's (BAA) height, and under the continued influence of the BAA's Boardman Robinson. Mechau maintained the Academy's traditional teachings by making the Fine Arts Center a Western focal point for the Works Progress Administration mural projects.

Mechau was the first Colorado artist awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship study grant, and he was among the first fellows allowed to use the award at home in the United States. In 1943, Mechau spent the year on cattle ranches traveling to rodeos and creating volumes of preparatory drawings for later paintings and murals. That same year, he was engaged by the Public Works of Art Program committee and offered one of the first mural commissions of the new federal subsistence plan – the beginning of numerous commissions as one of America's foremost public muralists.

Throughout its prestigious history, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center museum has curated significant exhibitions dedicated to historic and contemporary regional art. The *FAC Legacy Series* celebrates the art that continues to represent the spirit of Colorado and the American West through solo exhibitions of work by artists who have worked and/or taught at the FAC.

This program, made possible by the generous underwriting of Katherine H. Loo, began in 2012 with the *Sandzén in Colorado* exhibition. This was the most comprehensive presentation of BAA instructor Birger Sandzén's work in Colorado, and achieved acclaim from visitors and critics alike. The exhibition allowed the FAC to share the rich history of art in Colorado through not only the exhibition and catalogue, but lectures, interpretive material, and related classes.

Inspired by both the tradition of the FAC and the success of the Sandzén exhibition, the *FAC Legacy Series* has continued with stunning exhibitions of work by Charles Bunnell, Eric Bransby, Ellen O'Brien, and Myron Wood.

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**When:** March 5-May 15

**Where:** Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St.

**Tickets:** Non Members \$10-\$18.50; Members are free

**Something else:** The Frank Mechau exhibition catalog is available in the FAC Museum Shop

**Even more:** Members-Only Preview is Friday, March 4 from 5-7p

**Fine Arts Center**

The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, established in 1936, is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, professional theatre company and arts education center. Built on the foundation of the prestigious Broadmoor Art Academy, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado's arts and cultural heritage. One of 16 charter members of the American Association of Museums, the FAC offers the best in the world of visual arts via its permanent collection and travelling exhibitions, as a TCG member theatre company, and arts education with the Bemis School of Art. The FAC building is considered an architectural landmark in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register for Historical Places. For information, visit [csfineartscenter.org](http://csfineartscenter.org).

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