



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center
at COLORADO COLLEGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fine Arts Center welcomes two new staff members to the museum

Colorado Springs (August 1, 2017) — The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is excited to announce the addition of two new staff members, Kris Stanec and Polly Nordstrand (Hopi), to the FAC's museum department. The staffing additions are one of many positive implications to come from the unanimously approved strategic plan for the alliance between Colorado College and the FAC, titled "Excellence, Access, and Collaboration."

Kris Stanec, assistant chair of the Colorado College Department of Education and the first Mellon Grant Faculty Fellow, has been appointed director of museum education, and will be responsible for the direction and management of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College museum's public education programs. Stanec will be collaborating with the museum staff to create innovative education programs developed around museum exhibitions which will enhance the experience for all visitors. Stanec brings to this new position a longstanding commitment to the Colorado Springs community, outstanding collaboration skills, and a deep commitment to public education.

A faculty member in CC's Department of Education since 1999 and senior lecturer, Stanec is a professional member of the National Art Education Association (NAEA), the Colorado Art Education Association (CAEA), and the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). Stanec's courses at CC include: Arts Integration: Creating Critical Thinkers and Connected Communities, and Critical Pedagogies in Literacy, Curriculum, and Instruction Methods. Her in-services and conference presentations include: "Changing Paradigms – Using the Arts to increase Critical Thinking, Integrating Technology and the Arts in a Standards-based Curriculum, as well as many others. Stanec received both her Masters of Arts in Teaching, Elementary Education and her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Theory and Practice of the Arts from Colorado College.

Polly Nordstrand has been appointed Curator of Southwest Art. Nordstrand will curate exhibitions from the museum's permanent collection, including the historic Taylor Collection, as well as special exhibitions of modern and contemporary art from the American Southwest. Nordstrand's work will support the museum's efforts to bring the finest art from the Southwest region to the Colorado Springs community, and to build relationships with local, regional, and national artists, source cultures, and institutions.

Nordstrand is a former Research Associate of Native American Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Arts of Africa, Oceania and The Americas Department, and has an extensive background as a curator. Nordstrand has taught at the Institute for American Indian Arts, the University of Colorado, Denver, and Cornell University. She has been awarded fellowships at the Newberry Library, American Indian Studies Consortium Institute, Oswego Institute for Native American Art, and National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian – to name a few. Nordstrand has published in *Art Quantum: The Eiteljorg Fellowship for Native American Fine Art*, *[Re]inventing the Wheel: Advancing the Dialogue on Contemporary American Indian Art*, and more. Selected exhibitions include *Indigenous Masterpieces: Diker Collection of American Indian Art*, New York, NY, 2016; *Fritz Scholder: New Indian Images*, Denver, CO, 2009;

Maria: American Icon, Denver, CO, 2007; *Breaking the Mold: The Virginia Vogel Mattern Collection of Contemporary Native American Art*, Denver, CO, 2006; and *Fonseca's Coyote: Living with the Trickster*, Denver, CO, 2006. As Associate Curator of Native Art at the Denver Art Museum, she made acquisitions of important, contemporary Native art, including works by Rick Bartow, Jeffrey Gibson, James Luna, Jolene Rickard, Melanie Yazzie, and others.

"I am very pleased that Kris Stanec and Polly Nordstrand will be joining the museum team," said FAC Museum Director Rebecca Tucker. "These two new colleagues reflect the commitment to excellence in exhibitions and programs at the FAC. In her new role, Kris Stanec will be continuing her terrific work with the Colorado Springs K-12 schools, collaborating with teachers and reaching out to build new curricular connections. Polly Nordstrand's wide-ranging experience with Native art and artists is a tremendous asset for the museum, and we are excited to share her expertise with the campus and the community. With these two new positions, the FAC will be able to offer rich and exciting programs for our community, and to deepen our commitment to the arts and cultures of the Southwest."

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit www.coloradocollege.edu/fac

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