



## **FACT SHEET**

### ***All New Women June 11-Sept. 18, 2016***

This innovative exhibition combines the paintings of John Singer Sargent and Sara Ware Howsam with photography from Cindy Sherman and Lyle Ashton Harris. Together they make curious visual statements about trailblazing women of the past and present that have forged new paths for the next generations.

Around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the “New Woman” began to arise and exert her influence on American society. This woman was a progressive and dynamic force, an activist that lobbied for the advancement of education for women and health reform, and who was a philanthropist, especially in the arts.

*All New Women* pays homage to the FAC’s storied history and three such remarkable women that made the dream of this institution a reality – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor and Elizabeth Sage Hare. The women included in this exhibition, historic and contemporary, are all prominent women of influence, each challenging the status quo and requiring that we, as audience members and citizens of humanity, consider the impact of their contributions and how we may fit in as part of the ongoing conversation.

#### **John Singer Sargent** (1856-1925)

John Singer Sargent is considered one of the most successful, talented and celebrated portrait painters of his era. Housed within the FAC’s permanent collection is a portrait of Elsie Palmer by John Singer Sargent. Elsie was the daughter of General William Jackson Palmer, founder of Colorado Springs. This beloved artwork is undoubtedly one of the most recognizable works in the collection and the sitter, a strong and independent young woman.

#### **Cindy Sherman** (1954-Present)

Cindy Sherman achieved international success early in her career and is recognized as one of the most successful and respected photographers of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Sherman’s work has been exhibited and acquired by many major international museums. Nearly all of Sherman’s photographs throughout her notable career feature the artist herself portraying the subject. Her appearance is altered through the use of costumes, make-up, prosthetics, and in more recent years, via digital manipulation. The artist asks us to question our preconceived notions of beauty and identity, and elicits powerful responses whether because the images and characters feel eerily familiar, or because they confidently stride a fine line between beautiful and grotesque. In the 2008 series, *Society Portraits*, Sherman portrays aging women of means, the very same women who may have been influential a century prior.

#### **Sara Ware Howsam** (1954-Present)

Sara Ware Howsam, a Colorado Springs-based artist, is diving more deeply into portraiture specifically for this series. The artist, an influential woman herself, has selected both historic and living women as subjects, each having made significant contributions to the Colorado Springs community. Primarily a landscape painter, Howsam evokes the exuberant natural environment of Colorado through the use of dynamic brushstrokes, a vivid palette and rich texture. The influence of Austrian painter and prominent member of the Vienna Secessionist movement, Gustav Klimt, is particularly evident in this playful series of portraits. Howsam is represented locally by The Broadmoor Galleries.

**Lyle Ashton Harris**

(1965-Present)

Lyle Ashton Harris, a New York-based contemporary photographer, is renowned for his depictions of celebrities such as Michael Jackson and Billie Holiday, the latter works being exhibited in *All New Women*. In similar fashion to Cindy Sherman, Harris utilizes himself as the subject of these works, challenging the viewer's expectations and presumptions and playing with issues of gender and identity. Harris' work has been exhibited and acquired by major international museums.