



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two Complementary Exhibitions, One *Surreal* Experience

Get Ready to Have Your Conceptions of Reality Shattered

COLORADO SPRINGS (Oct 26, 2015) — The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) proudly presents an exhibition highlighting three extraordinary paintings by celebrated artist René Magritte, accompanied by Surrealist works of his contemporaries. Your experience will begin with a companion exhibition of works by four regional artists who have been influenced by their 20th century Surrealist predecessors.

Springs Surreal, on view from Oct 24 through Feb 7, will feature works by local and regional artists Kay Williams Johnson, Lorelei Beckstrom, Chris Sedgwick and Aaron Graves. And *Collections Surréaliste*, on view from Nov 7 through Jan 3, will feature three paintings by René Magritte (on loan from private collections) and works on paper by other well-known European artists Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí, Kay Sage, Herbert Bayer, and Roberto Matta.

Surrealism developed in the years between World Wars I and II. The movement took form through painting, sculpture, photography, film, and literature, and emphasized the irrational, the fantastic, and the accidental. The first Surrealist manifesto was published in 1924, and contained this definition written by painter Andre Breton: "Surrealism, pure psychic automatism by which it is intended to express, either verbally or in writing, the true function of thought. Thought dictated in the absence of all control exerted by reason, and outside all aesthetic or moral preoccupations. He continued to articulate the movement in 1930, writing, "There is a certain point for the mind from which life and death, the real and the imaginary, the past and the future, the communicable and the incommunicable, the high and the low, cease being perceived as contradictions."

There were two Surrealist schools of thought. One had to do with automatism and chance and is seen in the abstract work of Joan Miró. The other is exemplified by painters such as René Magritte and incorporates recognizable objects and themes taken out of their natural contexts, and combined in scenes that often refer to dreams and fantasy, and conjure universal concepts.

Surrealism's celebration of imagination and liberation of the creative process remain a vibrant component of contemporary art and sustains a thriving legacy as seen through the work of the four living regional artists represented in *Springs Surreal*. These artists cleverly represent the landscape of the subconscious psyche and natural conflicts between order, chaos, and chance via unexpected materials and subjects, questioning long standing beliefs about art, ourselves, and the world around us - questions that only the viewers can answer for themselves. The subjective experiences imagined by the artists and materialized within the exhibition may be both foreign and familiar, an ongoing fascination with concepts, imagery, and sensations that remain challenging to communicate without the language of visual art.

Springs Surreal

When: Oct 24 – Feb 7, 2016

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

Tickets: Starting at \$17 for non-members; kids 12 and under free

Something else: Enjoy William Wegman video selections from 1970-1978 in adjacent gallery.

Even More: Join us for our surreal themed Halloween party – Dark Matter Bash Oct 24 from 7:30-midnight

Collections Surréaliste

When: Nov 7 – Jan 3, 2016

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

Tickets: \$18.50 for non-members; kids 12 and under free

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.

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