



COLORADO SPRINGS

# Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

[COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU/FAC](http://coloradocollege.edu/fac)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Elsie Palmer returns to the Fine Arts Center with a special exhibition dedicated to her life in Colorado Springs and England**

*Colorado Springs (July 17, 2018)* – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is excited to present the special exhibition *P.S. I Love You: A Portrait of Miss Elsie Palmer*, on view Aug. 11, 2018-March 17, 2019.

In 1871, railroad tycoon and founder of Colorado Springs, William Jackson Palmer and his family built their home just north of Garden of the Gods. Seeking a climate better suited to her ill health, Palmer's wife Mary Mellon "Queen" Palmer departed Colorado Springs in 1880, taking their three daughters, Elsie, Dorothy, and Marjory, to reside at Ightham Mote, a moated English manor house built around 1320. The daughters returned to Colorado Springs following the death of their mother, eventually rebuilding their original home in Colorado Springs as the Glen Eyrie Castle that still stands today.

An engaging hostess both here and abroad, "Queen" welcomed some of the most highly regarded figures of the day to her homes, including artist John Singer Sargent, actress Ellen Terry, and author Henry James. The Palmer daughters were immersed in music and literature as well as the remarkably innovative technical accomplishments of their father. Late in the Palmers' tenure at Ightham Mote in 1889-1900, John Singer Sargent painted the stunning portrait of a then 17-year-old Elsie (*A Lady in White*), one of the most celebrated paintings in the Fine Arts Center collection and one that has been on loan to the National Trust/Ightham Mote since early 2017.

To fete the return of our beloved *Miss Elsie Palmer*, the Fine Arts Center has organized an exhibition that represents Elsie's domestic life and surroundings both in Colorado Springs and in England. From letters and photographs to furniture, paintings, and antique ephemera, we can capture a rare glimpse of what life may have been like for the Palmer family during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*P.S. I Love You: A Portrait of Miss Elsie Palmer* is made possible thanks to our generous collaborators: The National Trust/Ightham Mote, The Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, and The Navigators/Glen Eyrie.

### ***P.S. I Love You: A Portrait of Miss Elsie Palmer***

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**When:** Aug. 11, 2018-March 17, 2019

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

**Admission:** \$10 (\$5 military and seniors 55+); FREE for members, kids 12 and under, students, and teachers (with ID)

**Something else:** Friday, Sept. 14 at 5:30 p.m., join Donna M. Lucey, author of *Sargent's Women: Four Lives Behind the Canvas*, in a conversation about Elsie Palmer and other subjects of portraits by John Singer Sargent. Prior reading of the book is recommended but not required; drinks and appetizers will be served. RSVP required, free and open to the public.

### **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 [coloradocollege.edu/fac](http://coloradocollege.edu/fac)

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