



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Friday artist Mel Strawn showcases works in the FAC's Dec/Jan Deco Lounge gallery show

Colorado Springs (Nov. 16, 2018) — The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is excited to announce that accomplished Colorado artist Mel Strawn will be the next featured Deco Lounge gallery artist. Strawn's works will be on view and available for sale Dec. 7, 2018 through Jan. 31, 2019 with special First Friday Art Parties on Dec. 7 and Jan. 4 from 5-7:30 p.m.

Repurposed

"Since 1980 I have explored the potential of digital technology to capture, transform, and compose 'images.' As well as painting and sculpture, I've been a printmaker since the late 1940's — employing most of the traditional print methodologies: woodcut, silkscreen, lithography, photography, engraving, etching, and a bit of collagraphy.

A few of the prints here are 'repurposed' from paintings and drawings I made in Korea during the war. Others are developed in computer graphics programs in processes employing combinations and modifications-transformations of virtually unlimited scope. These are sometimes complete 'inventions' and sometimes include all or parts of other drawings, paintings, or photographs. The intent is simply (or not so simply) to make something interesting in itself, a new experience."

The Process

"All in this selection are 'solar intaglio' prints, descendants of traditional etchings that used acid on copper or zinc to bite away the lines and dots that then were filled with ink and, under pressure, printed on paper to show the image. ... The image lines, drawn directly on the plastic surface or placed over it via a positive or negative film transparency, blocks UV light when exposed for a short time. The unblocked (white) parts of the image are hardened by the UV light. Instead of acid to bite into the plate, water is used to wash away the still soluble, unhardened image, the darks, thus creating hollows into which ink can be wiped. The hardened surface (the 'whites' of the image) is then wiped clean of ink for printing."

Bio

Mel Strawn has had numerous exhibitions throughout the United States in New York, San Francisco, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, Arkansas, and Oregon, to name a few. His work is in the permanent collections of Antioch College, The Ohio State University, Colorado State University, Western Michigan University, Denver Public Library, The Ball Corporation, here at the Fine Arts Center, and many more.

Strawn has been featured in many publications including, *News Lines*, *ARTSPACE Magazine*, *Color Consulting*, *A Survey of International Color Design*, *The Art of Responsive Drawing*, *Transitions with the Humanities*, and *Going Digital*.

He received his BFA and MFA from the California College of Arts and Crafts and also studied at the Chouinard Art Institute in LA, Otis Art Institute, and the Jepson Art Institute.

Strawn's academic career spans 40 years teaching at Midwestern University, Michigan State University, Antioch College (Associate Professor and Art Department Chair), School of Art, University of Denver (Director and Professor of Art), and Western Michigan University (Art Department Chair).

Mel Strawn is currently represented by The Sandra Phillips Gallery in Denver, and resides in Salida, Colorado.

First Friday Art Parties

When: Dec. 7 & Jan. 4; 5-7:30 p.m.

Where: Deco Lounge at the Fine Arts Center; 30 W. Dale St.

Admission: 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. For nearly 100 years, 30 West Dale Street has been the hub of rich cultural history throughout the region. The Broadmoor Art Academy served as a pillar in the cultural community of the Rocky Mountain West. 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 – ultimately evolving into what is known today as 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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