



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

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

Contact: Amanda Weston, Media Relations
and Outreach Specialist
(719) 389-6770; aweston@coloradocollege.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Fine Arts Center launches its 2019 centennial celebrations with a special exhibition and anniversary kick-off event

Colorado Springs (Nov. 29, 2018) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is excited to announce an exhibition celebrating the Broadmoor Art Academy and the Fine Arts Center’s rich history. *O Beautiful! Shifting Landscapes of the Pikes Peak Region*, opens Dec. 15, 2018 followed by a special 100th anniversary kick-off celebration set on Jan. 26, 2019.

Decades before Katharine Lee Bates penned the famous words of her poem *Pikes Peak* in 1893, artists working in the European academic traditions were depicting the sublime grandeur of the Pikes Peak region. Colonizers of the Ute, Arapaho, Cheyenne, and other native lands sent tales of the rugged, dramatic scenery of the West back East, compelling artists such as Harvey Otis Young and Hamilton Hamilton to explore as well. The natural landscape of spacious skies, amber waves of grain, and purple mountains majesty of which Bates wrote, and would later become memorialized in the beloved anthem *America the Beautiful*, provided ample inspiration to late 19th and early 20th century painters.

By the early 20th century, Colorado Springs was a popular tourist destination and a celebrated place for healing. Known as “Little London” largely due to significant British financial backing, this nickname also represented a desire for the city to create a cultural landscape mimicking established cosmopolitan cities. The Broadmoor Art Academy was born in 1919 from these expressed ideals and soon attracted students from across the country to immerse themselves in the landscape.

The Broadmoor Art Academy shifted in name and facility to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936, but the ongoing commitment to art education remained a pillar of the institution. The subsequent years were unprecedented in terms of artistic production. Informed by modernism and abstraction, creatives such as Mary Chenoweth and Robert Motherwell challenged traditional expectations by producing works that were on the leading edge of the contemporary American art scene.

A century after the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy, we celebrate the ingenuity of the artists and patrons who helped to shape the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College into the fine museum, performing arts theatre, and art school it is today. Through these works, created by exceptional visual artists over the course of 100 years, we can witness the dramatic shifts that have occurred in the physical and artistic landscapes of the Pikes Peak region. As Colorado Springs continues to grow, so does the importance of a strong cultural identity. We are proud to have been an early and ongoing participant in this endeavor and strive to embrace the many avenues toward a doubly inclusive and dynamic FAC for all.

Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration

On Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019, the FAC will officially kick-off a year of celebration with a free public open house to launch the centennial and foreshadow what is to come throughout the year. Celebration events and activities will include:

- Hands-on art activities and demonstrations with the FAC's Bemis School of Art from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- A kick-off to the Play Reading Series in the museum galleries in homage to "The Academy Players" of the Broadmoor Art Academy – the first Play Reading will be *Suppressed Desires* by George Cram Cook & Susan Glaspell (the first play produced by "The Academy Players" in 1919).
- Plus, a special member lounge and VIP reception.

Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration

When: Jan. 26; 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Fine Arts Center; 30 W. Dale St.

Admission: FREE and open to the public

More: For a limited time only, the FAC will offer a special 100th Anniversary Medallion Club family membership for only \$100! Visit the website for more details.

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

###