



COLORADO SPRINGS

# Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

[FAC.COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU](http://FAC.COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ***Explore what it means to live in community in the Fine Arts Center's new exhibition – Utopia: A New Society for All***

*Colorado Springs (July 22, 2019)* – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College is excited to present a free special exhibition, *Utopia: A New Society for All*, on view August 3 - November 3, 2019.

Born from the artist's desire to build community, *Utopia* exists both as a 4-by-7-foot diorama-based installation and as a conceptual art piece, bringing virtual reality into the real world. Anyone can apply to become a citizen of *Utopia*. Over 80 people from all over the world already have. Upon acceptance, artist and Utopia Founder and Facilitator Becky Wareing Steele renders each applicant in 1:160 scale in a process called miniaturization. She then places them within the Southwest-inspired landscape of the diorama where they inhabit an Earthship-style dwelling.



As much a thought experiment as an art installation, *Utopia* explores what it means to live in community. By scaling down the world, it is the artist's intent to make solutions to complex issues seem more attainable. Her work asks us to contemplate a number of questions: How do we build community? What are the building blocks of a successful society? Is a Utopia attainable?

"This project aims to give people an escape from reality while still connecting with people in real life situations." Becky Wareing Steele, Founder and Facilitator of Utopia

Becky Wareing Steele is an artist living and working in Denver, Colorado specializing in small scale sculpture. Her work deals with the commonalities that exist in our shared experiences through the examination of scale and environment. By scaling objects down, the viewer is able to take in more complex issues and narratives conveyed through the work in a way that feels inclusive, exploring the impact of scale and how it effects our perception of the world around us.

Wareing Steele holds a BA in Art History from Colorado State University with a focus on Intuit Art.

### **Utopia: A New Society for All Exhibition**

**When:** August 3 - November 3, 2019

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

**Admission:** This exhibition is FREE and open to the public. (Admission to the rest of the FAC museum: \$10; \$5 seniors/military; FREE for members/students and teachers with ID)

**Something Else:** Artist Talk – Sept 27, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Join artist Becky Wareing Steele for a conversation centered on community as it relates to her ongoing exploration of the concept of a Utopia. Wareing Steele will discuss what brought her into her role as Founder and Facilitator of Utopia and how she's continued to build a sense of community with citizens around the world through this community-based project.

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

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