



THE LEGACY

NOVEMBER 2017 | Fall

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

One of the primary missions of The Couse Foundation is research. In large part this involves a deliberate process of expanding our knowledge of the life and career of each member of the Taos Society of Artists as well as the external influences that informed their work.

The artists of the TSA immersed themselves in the cultures of the American Southwest. Many of the artists accumulated impressive collections of Native American and Spanish Colonial artifacts that inspired their creative spirits and appeared as important compositional elements in their paintings.

The collections of artifacts at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site are extensive and historically significant. We have published a book devoted to the santo collection and one about the Native American pottery. We are pleased to announce that preliminary work is under way on the third volume, which will focus on the beautiful specimens of Native American beadwork.



In addition to our publications, we continue adding new information to our research archive through our summer intern program, video projects, exhibitions, and our lecture series.

The story behind the story that unfolds from these activities adds layers of texture to the careers and artistic legacies of E. I. Couse, Joseph Henry Sharp, and the other members of the Taos Society of Artists.

– Carl Jones, President
The Couse Foundation

SHARP STUDIO REBIRTH EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

The successful restoration of the J. H. Sharp Studio and the installation of the interpretive exhibition *The Life and Work of an American Legend* greatly exceeded our expectations.

As Sharp aged, he was acutely aware of his legacy. He strove to secure it by finding homes for his prized collections, selling most of the studio contents to Thomas Gilcrease and giving treasured items to friends, such as his favorite fly rod to Helen Blumenschein. The Couse Foundation owned little Sharp material, just two donated works of art. To borrow objects from private lenders and institutions, we had to create a secure environment. The studio now meets recommended museum preservation and exhibition requirements while retaining the original character of Henry's 1915 studio.



Photo by Tim Newton

As we unwrapped each painting and each pot and artifact that was loaned for the exhibit, installing them with care, the space came alive and Mr. Sharp's spirit returned to the studio. In the many years I have curated exhibitions, I have never witnessed a space so wholly transformed. Our goal was to bring Uncle Henry back to the Site; we accomplished that and more, thanks to the vision of the Couse Foundation, the generosity of the Tia Collection, and the support of friends like you.

– Davison Packard Koenig, Executive Director and Curator
Couse-Sharp Historic Site

STUDIO WINTER HOURS & VISITOR NEWS

For the first time, winter visitors to Taos will have an opportunity to visit one special area of the Site. From November 2017 through April 2018, we will offer tours of the restored Sharp Studio only (which is climate controlled), on Fridays 10-4 by appointment. The schedule is experimental and may be expanded if demand warrants.

Winter hours will expand our visitor numbers, which already grew substantially in 2017. This year more than 460 visitors toured the site by appointment May through September, about 40% more than the same period in 2016. In addition, each First Saturday Open House has drawn in excess of 100 guests.

ART RETURNS HOME

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Couse and Sharp paintings, as well as associated items, have been making their way back to the studios where they were created or used.

Sunlight/Sunshine

On June 24 Jean Hillman was joined at the Site by members of her extended family to celebrate the donation of Couse's *Sunlight/Sunshine* to The Couse Foundation. Purchased in 1919 by Philip H. Gray of Detroit, the 24x29 oil had remained in the family's care for 97 years and had never been shown in public. We will always remember the joyous day spent with the family, but are saddened to report the passing of Mrs. Hillman in August.

San Juan jar

We sometimes learn of the whereabouts of an artifact formerly in the Couse collection that in the distant past had been sold, either by the artist or his son. Two such important pieces have been reacquired so far in 2017: half of a pair of beaded leggings was reunited with its mate, and a unique small black San Juan jar that appears in many Couse paintings has been returned to its place in the studio.



Virginia Couse Leavitt with Bryan Steger of Bryans Gallery and the San Juan jar

San Juan jar that appears in many Couse paintings has been returned to its place in the studio.

J. H. Sharp artifacts

On the Sharp side, the artist's plein air sketch box and umbrella were generously donated to the site in July by Marty Meyers, widow of Ouray Meyers. J. H. Sharp had given the items to Meyers late in life. Similarly, Peter Riess and Gerald Peters donated a fly fishing rod that had belonged to Sharp.



Sunlight/Sunshine on display for the first time, paired with items from the Couse Archive for the exhibition *Archival Stories: Seldom Seen*, including the photo study, compositional sketch, sales and exhibition records, and moccasins and leggings worn by the model, Jerry Mirabal.

SUMMER EXHIBITION SHOWCASED TSA EXAMPLES, DONATIONS

The Couse Foundation normally limits acquisitions only to works by Sharp and Couse and items related to them. However, we hope to have representative works by each of the 12 members of the Taos Society of Artists to display in the Archive building.

This summer's exhibition in the historic Luna Chapel, *Archival Stories: Seldom Seen*, showcased several such works and displayed them in context with associated

photographs, handwritten records, newspapers, and even audio recordings, which were gifts or promised gifts to the growing Archive.

Donated works shown this season were by Ernest Blumenschein, Oscar Beminghaus, E. Martin Hennings, and Julius Rolshoven, the result of gifts from Virginia Leavitt, Barbara Brenner, Robert Parsons, Annette Smith, and Roger and Mindy Eiteljorg. The Foundation is actively seeking gifted works to represent TSA members Kenneth Adams, Catharine Critcher, Buck Dunton, Victor Higgins, Bert Phillips, and Walter Ufer.

LEADERSHIP

THE COUSE FOUNDATION FOUNDER

Alan J. Olson
Boulder, CO; Palm Desert, CA

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Program Manager; Taos, NM

Holly Azzari
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Taos, NM



MATCHING GRANT CHALLENGE

Currently on display at the site is Couse's 12x16 oil *The Pictographs*. Annette Smith has given it contingent on the fulfillment of a challenge: By May 2020, others must donate Couse or Sharp paintings or related artifacts that equal or exceed its value (appraised at \$60,000). We invite you to meet the challenge and double the impact of your gift!



The Pictographs,
E. I. Couse

FIFTH BIENNIAL COUSE FOUNDATION GALA & ART AUCTION

GALA SPONSORS
(\$2,500 AND ABOVE)
Heritage Hotels
Parsons Fine Art
Beverly Pearson
Sotheby's

TABLE SPONSORS
Tia Collection
Kristin and Jim Bender
Rich and Carol Rinehart

GALA DONORS
\$1,000-\$2,499
Terry Caviness
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UP TO \$100
Holly Azzari*
Christopher and Karen Brieden
Brendan and Connie Dunn
Henry Architects*
Jan Johnson
Tim and Ingmarie McElvain
Stephen and Marta Quiller
Sharon Seay*

*In-kind donation

**"PADDLES UP" PLEDGES
TO ARCHIVES PROJECT**
\$10,000
Jim and Kristin Bender
Jim and Olga Hutson-Wiley
Kyle Marcotte

\$7,500
Nedra Matteucci

\$5,000
Thomas Doerk
Anthony Skvarla

\$2,500
Richard and Annadru Lampert
Bruce and Marla Levinson
Alan and Carol Ann Olson
Rich and Carol Rinehart

\$1,000
James Baker and Victoria Addison
George Engdahl
Laura Finlay Smith
Virginia Harrigan**
Sami and Mary Ann Miro
Tim and Ingmarie McElvain
Carolyn Quan and Porter Bennett
Kevin and Irene Rowe
Jennifer and Charles Sands

\$500
Merritt and Ann Bodelson Brown
Jolie Jones
Barbara Sparks
Dan Woodard

\$250
Carl and Becky Calvert
Dan and Fran Doherty
Michael Koenig and Luciana Marulli
Thomas McCarthy

\$100
Fred and Jane Burns
Leslie and Ed DeVries
Bill Fuller and Peggy Larsen
Carleen and Michael Milburn
Tim and Cathi Newton
Zandi Richardson
**in honor of Virginia Couse Leavitt

**ARTISTS AND OTHER DONORS
OF ITEMS FOR AUCTION**
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Lenny Foster
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Audrey Hall

Tom Harper and The Solitary Angler
Virginia Couse Leavitt
Jennifer Li
Jeremy Lipking
King Galleries
Tatiana Koch
Dustin Leavitt
Medicine Man Galleries
Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs
Resort and Spa
Virgil Ortiz
Owings Gallery
Robert Parker
Parsons Fine Art
Ben Pease
Harlan Reano and Lisa Holt
Kevin Red Star
Ray Roberts
Michael Scott
Ed Smida
Will Wilson
Zaplin Lampert Galleries



From top: Arturo Chavez and Patricia Duran enjoy the Jimmy Stadler Band; Tom Azzari and Tim Newton share a laugh; Tony Skvarla bids on Ben Pease's *The Other Side of Camp*; Charlene Tamayo, Holly Sievers, Ellen Harper, and Sharon Seay check in guests. Photos by Tony Donaldson

The Fifth Biennial Couse Foundation
GALA & ART AUCTION
 CELEBRATING THE JOSEPH HENRY SHARP STUDIO RENOVATION

CELEBRATION WEEKEND DRAWS HUNDREDS

In June, the Foundation hosted a whirlwind weekend of activities crowned by our Fifth Biennial Gala and Art Auction the evening of June 10.

“The Gala was our most successful fundraising event ever,” said President Carl Jones. “We are deeply grateful to the artists and businesses who made our auctions the talk of the town, to our many dedicated volunteers, to our generous bidders and donors, and all those who supported us by attending.”

Festivities began Friday evening with the preview opening of the *Joseph Henry Sharp: The Life and Work of an American Legend* exhibition in his newly restored 1915 studio. The exhibition covers Sharp’s artistic career and includes works of art, correspondence, and Native American artifacts that he collected and which appeared in his paintings.

Saturday morning, a standing-room-only crowd at the Harwood Museum enjoyed a lecture on *The Studios of J. H. Sharp* by Peter Hassrick, director emeritus and senior scholar at The Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming.

The elegant gala evening at El Monte Sagrado Resort featured a reception, silent and live auctions, a gourmet dinner and dancing with music by the Jimmy Stadler Band. The Foundation was fortunate to have Alissa Ford, director of Western Art at Heritage Auctions, as auctioneer.



On Sunday, Taos Mayor Dan Barrone cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the Sharp Studio. About 100 guests from the local and regional community came to see the new jewel among the many gems of Taos.



At left, Mayor Dan Barrone; from top, Al and Carol Ann Olson chat with Thomas Minckler; Peter Hassrick lectures; Alissa Ford fires up the crowd for Logan Maxwell Hagege's *Wild and Free*. Photos by Tony Donaldson

FOUNDERS SOCIETY COMMEMORATED

The first event of our June Gala weekend was a gathering of members of the Couse-Sharp Historic Site Founders Society—patrons who have supported the Foundation with at least \$100,000 in donations—to view the three boulders set near the front of the Site engraved with their names. “The Founders Stones ensure the contributions of these key benefactors will be remembered by site visitors and friends in perpetuity,” said President Carl Jones.



From left, Hallie Marcotte, J.D. Marcotte (in hat), Melissa Couse, Peter Couse, Carol Ann and Alan Olson, Adele Ward, Lois Paff Bergen and Erland Bergen, Dustin Leavitt and Virginia Couse Leavitt. Photo by Tony Donaldson

COUSE-SHARP HISTORIC SITE FOUNDERS SOCIETY

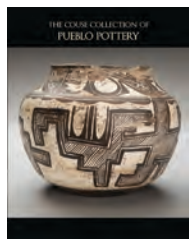
- AL OLSON, BOARD PRESIDENT 2001-2013 | HEALY FOUNDATION, ED & TRUDY
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- ERLAND & LOIS PAFF BERGEN

There is room to add you as a member of the Founders Society. To find out more about becoming one, please contact Carl at cjones@couse-sharp.org.

SKETCHBOOK: NOTES IN BRIEF

The Foundation's Board of Directors welcomed a new member in June: **Dustin Leavitt** of Tucson, an artist, writer, former university professor and exhibitions designer for The Center for Creative Photography, and the son of Virginia and Ernie Leavitt.

The Foundation welcomed a **new employee** in April, Program Manager Regina McAskill Scherffius, who replaces the administrative coordinator position. From day one Regina was thrown headfirst into Gala preparations, from which she emerged alive and continues to be a most valued colleague.



June 8 the first copies of the Foundation's **Volume 2 of The Record: The Couse Collection of Pueblo Pottery** were delivered. In early July author E. Jane Burns gave a well-received talk and signing at the Site. Copies are available for \$28 via our website.

Aug. 5 a healthy crowd turned out for a learned lecture by **Christina Burke**, curator of Native American and Non-Western Art at the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa. Titled *A Pictograph is Worth A Thousand Words: Reading Native Pictography*, the lecture was sponsored by the Foundation in cooperation with the Harwood Museum of Art. The lecture was videoed and will be available for viewing via a link from couse-sharp.org.



The Foundation sends its thanks and best wishes to **Chelsea Herr**, who in August completed her second summer as our invaluable intern. Herr is working to complete her doctorate in Native American Art History at the University of Oklahoma.



Phil Woodard, Chelsea Herr and Fred Lujan, Jr.
Photo by Tony Donaldson

In early September Holly and Tom Azzari hosted an appreciation party for more than three dozen of our **magnificent volunteers** and their guests. Dinner, libations, door prizes and a showing of the Peter Hassrick lecture video (since so many were busy volunteering during the actual event) were enjoyed by all.

The **Southwest Art History Conference**, an annual event in Taos, held its Oct. 12 reception outside the Sharp Studio so attendees could tour the exhibition and see the new gem of Taos art history.



Photo by Holly Azzari

In the restored Sharp Studio in July, Salmagundi Club Chairman of the Board Tim Newton recorded his first introductions for a **video series** on the Taos Society of Artists currently in development by the Foundation with Taos Video Works. Tom Azzari is directing the series and has donated a substantial investment of state-of-the-art equipment to ensure top quality.

An increased and targeted national **publicity** campaign has paid off not only in advertising presence but editorial attention. So far 2017 has seen 13 national and four regional placements of articles about the site, in addition to numerous event listings.

EVERY PENNY COUNTS

Help preserve our national treasure

Financial support of the Couse-Sharp Historic Site is a gift not only to the present but to the future. Every donation to The Couse Foundation is greatly appreciated. The long-term preservation of the site cannot be accomplished without your generosity.



As an example of the significant and ongoing site repair and maintenance needs, "Little Egypt," J. H. Sharp's "exterior plumbing facility," is melting into the ground. Our Save Little Egypt fund already has more than \$9,000 toward our \$10,000 goal, which is what it will take to preserve this unique adobe structure into the future. Wouldn't you like to be able to tell your friends you helped save a historic outhouse?

Ways and means

Gifts of cash are greatly appreciated, whether temporarily restricted to a purpose such as our ambitious Archives project, or to fund the growing operating budget of the site. Appreciated stocks, bonds, and other marketable securities can support the site with excellent tax advantage to you.

Tribute gifts are a way to memorialize loved ones and to honor other relationships such as mentors and colleagues. Other special designations are Founders Society (\$100,000 total donations) and Ten for Ten Circle (single gift of \$10,000).

Please contact your IRA custodian or tax advisor for details on the potential benefits of directing a portion of your Required Minimum Distribution to the Foundation. With an eye to the future, you could direct your representative or trustee to distribute a bequest to The Couse Foundation.

For more information see couse-sharp.org/ways-to-give or contact Foundation President Carl Jones at cjones@couse-sharp.org, 575.751.0369.

To donate

The Couse Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; contributions are tax deductible. Donations can be made by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope, by credit card at couse-sharp.org/donate, or by calling 575.751.0369.



THE
COUSE-SHARP
HISTORIC SITE

Two painters. One place.

THE COUSE FOUNDATION

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Taos, NM 87571

couse-sharp.org

admin@couse-sharp.org

 thecousesharphistoricsite

575.751.0369

[Address Correction Requested]



photo © Christopher L. Canestaro

TIPI ECHOES THE PAST

A tipi crafted by Milton Wagon now occupies a spot where J. H. Sharp often sited one he had brought from the Crow Reservation. The tipi was delivered and put up in May by Putt Thompson and family (pictured) of the Custer Battlefield Trading Post in Crow Agency, Montana.

The trading post and the Big Horn County Historical Museum in Hardin, Montana, donated the 18-foot-diameter structure to our Gala silent auction. It was purchased by Susan Streeper, who donated it to the Site, where it will be displayed every summer.

THE MISSION

of The Couse Foundation is to conserve and preserve The Couse-Sharp Historic Site, its buildings, grounds, collections and archives.

THE VISION

of The Couse Foundation is to be the center for scholarship of E.I. Couse and J.H. Sharp and the Taos Society of Artists.



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