

OCTOBER 2023 | FALL

# THE LEGACY

COUSE-SHARP  
HISTORIC SITE

## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES: CELEBRATING THE TAOS CROSSROADS OF CULTURES



For decades, visitors to Couse-Sharp Historic Site have stepped into a time capsule, in which they see important paintings by the artists and experience the living crossroads of three cultures—Native American, Hispano, and Anglo. CSHS today continues to bring communities together, and we manifested that with an event on June 10 to introduce our local and regional community to the latest phase of our mission: the state-of-the-art Lunder Research Center.

“The LRC strengthens our institution and extends the reach of our programming as we become a hub of historical information about Taos and its human environment,” said Davison Koenig, executive director and curator. “We aim to promote a continuum of exchange that carries the legacy of the early Taos artists and their multicultural story into the future. The history of the Taos Society of Artists is not only a New Mexico story, but an American one, of national importance.”



LRC Director Marissa Hendriks added, “Our aim is not only to display and interpret objects of art and archival materials, but also to allow scholars and the public to use them as a catalyst for reflection, critical thinking, civic engagement, and empowerment.”

The event also served as the public opening for our two dynamite summer/fall shows focusing on Taos Pueblo artists and northern New Mexico Hispano artists. Well over 200 attendees enjoyed traditional pies and cookies by Mary’s Baked Goods from Taos Pueblo, and tamales with salsa from Sabor Real, along with a display of classic autos.



An appearance by the Fiesta de Taos Royal Court in full regalia kicked off the celebration. The Couse Garden hosted performances by hoop dancer Emileah Lujan, accompanied by her father, Christopher Lujan, on hand drum, as well as singer/guitarist Gabriella Salazar.

## BECOME A CORE SUPPORTER BY JOINING OUR GIVING SOCIETY

The board of directors and staff of Couse-Sharp Historic Site are pleased to offer a new way for donors to the site to give in a way that helps the organization plan in both the short and long term: The Giving Society.

“In the wake of our capital campaign, and the increased program and operating costs engendered by The Lunder Research Center and our expanded role in our field, we face a critical need for greater—and more sustainable—funding sources,” explained Davison Koenig, executive director. “The Giving Society is one of several initiatives we’re launching to meet those needs.”

to a series of significant annual unrestricted gifts. The Taos Society of Artists required its members to spend three consecutive summers in Taos; similarly, induction into the Giving Society requires a minimum three-year commitment to sustained giving. Members can choose from six tiers, from the Discovery Circle beginning at \$1,000 to the Chairperson’s Circle with a minimum annual donation of \$25,000.

“We express deep gratitude to our distinguished donors for their generous, reliable contributions over time,” said Elizabeth Crittenden Palacios, chair of the board. “Adding members to the new Giving Society will make our exceptional educational programming and sustainability possible.”

With your help, CSHS can accomplish exhibitions, curatorial projects, historic preservation and conservation, and fund public programs, research fellows, and make our extraordinary archives accessible.

With recognition in the Giving Society, you are among a distinguished group who provide critical funding to the Site. Each tier of the Society recognizes key supporters who commit

**We thank our sponsors for making  
Connecting Communities possible!**

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# AÚN AQUÍ

SPANISH COLONIAL  
CONTEMPORARY

# STILL HERE, STILL CREATING BEAUTY



S. M. Chavez, *Balada por Nuevo Mexico*, 2022, 48 x 48, oil on linen, \$14,600

*Aún Aquí: Spanish Colonial Contemporary* highlights work of New Mexico artists

Our first exhibition highlighting northern New Mexican artists working in the Spanish Colonial tradition has been a big hit over the past several months. The first part of the exhibition name translates to “Still Here.” Including decorative and fine arts such as textiles, furniture, woodcarving, *santos*, metalwork, and painting, the exhibition also features historic work by J. H. Sharp.

“Our programming has for the past half dozen years largely reflected Couse’s and Sharp’s focus on Indigenous culture. With the advent of The Lunder Research Center for the Taos Society of Artists, we are now expanding our story and programming to include the local Hispano culture and community,” explained Davison Koenig, executive director and curator. “We aim for this exhibition to build bridges toward that inclusion.” The show’s curator is Jake Cisneros, CSHS site coordinator.

The exhibition is installed in the 1830s Luna Family Chapel, Sharp’s first Taos studio. All contemporary work in the exhibition is for sale. You can still see it if you find yourself in Taos before Nov. 30. See [couse-sharp.org](http://couse-sharp.org) for details.

## YOUR DEDICATION SHAPES OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE



I hope this message finds you well. It is with immense enthusiasm that we share the latest developments at Couse-Sharp Historic Site and express our deep appreciation for your invaluable support.

I am thrilled to have joined the remarkable team of the Board and staff at the Site and recently stepped into a leadership role. We all share a dedication to expanding the Site into a nationally recognized hub for research, education, and fresh perspectives on the Taos Society of Artists and Native communities in the American West.

The Lunder Research Center confirms the enduring relevance of our original vision. This center is a testament to our commitment to inclusion, particularly regarding Indigenous communities and the Hispano community in northern New Mexico, and it provides a platform for the exploration of these vital narratives.

Our organization has experienced rapid, substantial growth. To ensure a secure future and further our mission, we have launched the second phase of our *Bringing the Legacy to Life* campaign. This phase intensifies our efforts for

long-term financial sustainability through multi-year donor commitments, endowment gifts, and legacy contributions.

While we have diversified our revenue streams, we recognize that the path to true financial sustainability lies in establishing a robust endowment. Our capital campaign has already made significant strides, but our aspirations are even higher. We aim to retire the remaining LRC mortgage by 2024 and, over the next five years, work toward achieving a \$10 million endowment.

Your steadfast support has already played a pivotal role in shaping the cultural heritage we are dedicated to preserving. We invite you to continue this journey with us, as your contributions will not only preserve our rich history but also help shape the future.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering dedication. Your involvement and generosity are key drivers of our success, and we are grateful for your partnership. If you ever wish to discuss our progress or explore new opportunities for collaboration, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your insights and continued support mean the world to us.

Sincerely,  
**Elizabeth Crittenden Palacios**  
Chair of the Board of Directors

## If You Build It, They Will Come



In June, for the first time the **Azzari Family Library** hosted multiple researchers on the same day: an Iowa graduate student working on his dissertation, a local resident, two Colorado contractors working on our National Historic Landmark application, and an independent scholar from Michigan. A photo of five people reading around a table—but for CSHS and The Lunder Research Center, it represents our growing value and relevance to the humanities and our communities.

# WINDOW TO THE PAST, PROJECTING INTO THE FUTURE



Reflections included painting, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, fashion, and glass artworks, all of which were for sale.

Our summer exhibition (which closed Sept. 20) *Reflections: Taos Pueblo and the Photography of E. I. Couse* highlighted responses from contemporary Taos Pueblo artists to E. I. Couse's photography. The painter produced roughly 10,000 photographs during his lifetime, 1866–1937, of which approximately 6,000 represent the people of Taos Pueblo. The vast majority of the images are model studies for potential paintings.

Reflections was inspired by the completion of digitizing the E. I. Couse photography collection, a 2-1/2 year project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and Institute of Museum and Library Services. The collection comprises more than 10,000 cellulose nitrate

negatives, 10,000 contact prints and 500 glass plate negatives. Although the majority of the images are studies for future paintings, the collection documents the Couses' time in France in the 1890s, everyday life in Taos and trips in the American Southwest, including to Acoma Pueblo and Hopi Land.

CSHS works closely with Taos Pueblo on a regular basis, and before the artists embarked on their work for the show, we conducted a roundtable to review photos, discuss artist/model relationships, the legacy of these artists today and their impact on the Pueblo. Excerpts of the artists' statements were displayed in the exhibition on topics such as their own work, the positives and negatives of the relationships between Anglo American artists and Indigenous models, and thoughts on the impact of artists from outside their community depicting their people.

Artist Yellowbird Samora noted that viewing Couse's photos "is like looking at a family scrapbook or photo album. It doesn't all make sense. You may not know everyone but you are somehow related to it all. And our artwork becomes part of the ongoing conversation."

## Every Penny Counts HELP PRESERVE OUR NATIONAL TREASURE

Financial support of Couse-Sharp Historic Site is not only a gift to the present but also an investment in the future. Every donation to The Couse Foundation is greatly appreciated.

### WE ARE A GOLD SEAL ORGANIZATION!

The Couse Foundation has achieved the designation of Gold Seal from Guide Star, the world's largest source of information on non-profits. See our profile at [Guidestar.org](http://Guidestar.org)

Gold  
Transparency  
2023

Candid.

### ESTATE ART PROGRAM

If you collect art and have been contemplating your estate planning, consider our program to coordinate the donation (full or partial) and sale of your artwork, thus enabling you to "do well and do good." Contact us at 575.751.0369 to inquire.

### DONATE TODAY!

The Couse Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization; contributions are tax deductible. Donate by credit card via PayPal at [couse-sharp.org/donate](http://couse-sharp.org/donate). You can also donate by check or credit card with the enclosed remittance envelope to PO Box 1436, Taos NM 87571. For more information about securities, special-purpose, and planned giving, see [couse-sharp.org/ways-to-give](http://couse-sharp.org/ways-to-give)

[couse-sharp.org](http://couse-sharp.org)

## SKETCHBOOK: *News in brief*



In August, we bid a fond farewell to **Mary Deleary**, the 2023 Couse-Sharp Historic Site – University of Oklahoma Russell Center Fellow. Our gratitude to Becky Calvert and Holly and Tom Azzari for hosting her. Mary, who earned her doctorate during her tenure here, reported: "This summer was filled with creating new relationships and learning about the unique and rich history of CSHS and Lunder Research Center. I arrived in time to assist in the development of the *Aún Aquí: Spanish Colonial Contemporary* exhibition by creating supplemental guides for docents and visitors. For *Reflections: Taos Pueblo and the Photography of E. I. Couse*, I created an online component to make the exhibition more widely available. For the LRC, I cataloged and rehoused the Amalia de Schulthess papers, correspondence between de Schulthess and

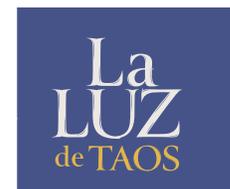
artists and art patrons of Taos such as Andrew Dasburg, Dorothy Brett, and Frieda Lawrence."



Our second Peter and Paula Lunder Colby College Museum Fellow, **Mary Bevilacqua**, joined us in early September. She graduated from Colby College as a double major in American Studies and Studio Art and worked for four years at the Colby Museum of Art in positions from student guide to curatorial intern. "I enjoyed being able to experience and learn about different museum roles, departments, and structures while at the Colby Museum. I'm excited to continue learning more about the art world at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site this year!" Mary said.

**Lucas McDaniel**, who holds an MFA from Otis College of Art and Design and has been

a Contract Archivist, has been promoted to permanent staff as our part-time Collections and Archives Specialist. He's a current Museum Studies graduate student at the University of New Mexico, formerly Collections Intern with the National Council for Preservation Education at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. We thank Rosa Fernandez and Stephen Monroe for providing housing for Lucas.



**La Luz de Taos Gala Weekend 2024** is planned for June 14–15 here in Taos. Watch our home page at [couse-sharp.org](http://couse-sharp.org) for the announcement of ticket and art sale ballot availability, and when the exhibition will be on view online and in person!

## DONORS TO COUSE-SHARP HISTORIC SITE SEPTEMBER 2022–AUGUST 2023

Donations that include an in-kind or artwork component are marked with an asterisk. The many donors of amounts between \$100 and \$1000 are listed at [couse-sharp.org/news](http://couse-sharp.org/news). Every penny counts!

### \$100,000 OR MORE

Linn Wilson-Krieg\*  
Alan J & Carol-Ann Olson\*  
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### \$50,000–\$99,999

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John & Peggy Hamilton in honor  
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### In memory of Dr. Dean A Porter

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### PRICELESS DONATIONS OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS & BOOKS

Berninghaus Family  
Kroll Family  
David and Leilani Kyea  
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## GENEROUS GIFTS TO OUR COLLECTIONS

**We are ever grateful for those who donate  
works of art for our growing collections!**

Stephanie Bennett-Smith: Gene Kloss, *Buffalo Dancers at Fiesta*, oil on canvas  
Barbara Brenner: Bert Geer Phillips, *Aspen Forest in Hondo Canyon*, oil on canvas  
Nancy Neumann-Glasgow: E. I. Couse pencil study; Emil Bisttram drawing  
William P. Healey: J. H. Sharp, *Daughter of Little Chief*, Cheyenne, oil on canvas  
Mary Nilson: Kenneth Adams, *The Miner*, lithograph  
Al and Carol-Ann Olson: Walter Ufer, *Grand Canyon*, oil on canvas  
Mary W. Voelz, J. H. Sharp descendant: J. H. Sharp, *Portrait of Aunt Almira Babcock Sharp Lyons*, pastel; unknown, untitled portrait of a young girl  
Linn Wilson-Krieg, in memory of George W. and Linn M. Perkins: E. I. Couse, *The Connoisseur*, oil on canvas  
Phillip and Mary Ann Woodard: J. H. Sharp, *A Gift for Her Brave*, signed chromolithograph; B. Pat Pattison, *Chief*, reverse painting on glass



E.I. Couse, *The Connoisseur*, 29 x 35 inches

We are always seeking donations of original artwork by the Taos Society of Artists and other early artists of Taos. In addition, The Lunder Research Center welcomes archival material relating to the 12 members of the TSA and their close associates such as models and family members. Examples include photographs, letters, sketches, or notes by scholars who studied these artists in the past.

## WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

Through their enthusiasm for our mission, our donors have made possible extraordinary projects—not to mention the continued existence of the historic site, research center, and programming. In addition to our annual list above/below, we would like to highlight a few of those major supporters over the past year.

**Erland and Lois Paff Bergen:** Two of our most loyal donors and volunteers over time, the Bergens decided in 2022 to fund significant security upgrades to protect multiple areas of the site, including gates, fencing, and electronic systems.

**The Lunder Foundation:** As the lead granting entity of The Lunder Research Center, the Lunder Family haven't rested on their laurels. We greatly appreciate their funding of two years (so far) of salary for the Peter and Paula Lunder Colby College Museum Fellow.

**Charles and Jennifer Sands:** The Sands stepped up to fund landscaping in the alley west of the LRC to ensure this entrance to the Sharp Gardens (which they previously supported as a naming opportunity) welcomes visitors in a beautiful way.

**The Maddox Foundation:** On the engineering history front, the Maddox Foundation gave a significant challenge grant to ensure that the Couse Mobile Machine Shop will soon be protected from the elements with a sturdy ramada (open-sided shed). Their leadership persuaded several more friends of "Rosie" to contribute, closing out the project funding in record time.

# Our next steps depend on you

Nathan Burton/Taos News



Hello Friends,

As autumnal shadows stretch across the restored J. H. Sharp Gardens, I remember why I've always loved the fall. The colors and light show everything at greatest advantage, and it is also a time of reflection. I look back on recent milestones here at the Site, amazed at how much we have accomplished. "We" includes all of us, as our preservation, restoration, renovation, and program goals could not have been accomplished without your support.

The most recent milestone was the launch of The Lunder Research Center. Its significance has been validated by widespread interest from museum colleagues, students, and independent scholars across the country, who are asking new and thoughtful research questions that delve into not only the Taos Society of Artists, but also other early artists of Taos and the Native communities represented. Our archives and collection focus has expanded to match, and our revised statement of purpose (see box on this page) better reflects what we do and why we do it.

The community of Taos, as depicted by the early artists of Taos and also today, provides a unique lens to explore the Southwest's rich, complex history and traditions. The research center has an important national role to provide context and give voice to the people represented, which enhances the relevance and meaning of paintings from Taos that hang in a multitude of museums and private collections.

CSHS envisions significant exhibitions of historic and contemporary art, K-12 education program expansion, scholarly publications and presentations, preservation projects, and research symposia. Our next major capital project is to renovate one of our buildings into residences, addressing the need for affordable housing for artists, scholars, interns and fellows. This initiative will activate our campus and further Bring the Legacy to Life.

To achieve these goals, additional staff and funding will be essential. Equally important is building a sustainable financial foundation. Only through the help of friends like you can we accomplish so much more.

**Davison Packard Koenig**  
Executive Director and Curator

## COUSE-SHARP HISTORIC SITE

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Through its archives, collections, and programming, the Couse-Sharp Historic Site preserves and interprets Taos' crossroads of cultures, promoting research, education, and new perspectives on the Taos Society of Artists, early artists of Taos, and interpretation of Native communities in relation to the greater story of the multicultural American West.

## LEADERSHIP

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**LUCAS MCDANIEL**  
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HISTORIC ARTISTS' HOMES & STUDIOS

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

# PAINTING OUTDOORS AND OUT WEST



Chris Morel, *Turquoise House, Llano San Juan*, oil on linen panel, 12 x 16 in., \$3,100. All artwork in the exhibition is for sale.

CSHS is thrilled to host the 2023 exhibition of the Plein Air Painters of America (PAPA), titled *Out West*. PAPA's annual paint out and show provides an opportunity for inspired dialogue and camaraderie amongst its membership. The genre of the American West is currently thriving, and the association's members are excited to partake in the theme. With breadth in style and vision, PAPA have produced a visually stunning show.

"Taos epitomizes the vision of the Southwest for many artists, many of their heroes having worked here," said PAPA member Jill Carver. "Inspired by this uniquely stunning landscape, the Taos group produced some of the greatest Western imagery that exists."

The Taos area has been a "ground zero" for creatives of all sorts—visual artists, writers, entrepreneurs, and more—for generations. According to artist Matt Smith, "Most PAPA members live and work in the West, so coming to Taos just seemed natural."

**PAPA: OUT WEST | Open 1–5 p.m. Tuesday–Saturday through Jan. 20 except holiday periods | For details: [couse-sharp.org](http://couse-sharp.org)**



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