

Tempo

LUNDER
ARCHIVES OPEN
THEIR DOORS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT IN TAOS
MARCH 10 - 16, 2022



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at Millicent
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A sizzling
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COUSE-SHARP GALA OPENING OF THE LUNDER ARCHIVES

BY DENA MILLER

ANYONE WHO REGULARLY DRIVES ALONG KIT CARSON ROAD surely watched with curiosity as the old Mission Gallery underwent a facelift. Even after a sign was hung—Lunder Research Center—the new facade gave little away, and what was behind the adobe walls remained a mystery for many.

The time has finally come for the answers, however, as the Lunder Research Center is now ready to throw open its doors and invite the public in to the expanded Couse-Sharp Historic Site campus. And to celebrate this momentous occasion, a blow-out contemporary art exhibition, sale and three-day weekend gala has been planned: “La Luz de Taos.”

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ALTHOUGH THE GALA DOESN'T HAPPEN UNTIL MAY 20–22, the exhibition is now on view at LRC in the Dean Porter Gallery, and tickets for the event are on sale. “We recommend purchasing your tickets as soon as possible,” cautioned Executive Director Davison Koenig. “Previous years’ galas have always sold out and ‘La Luz de Taos’ will be even more exciting than galas we’ve hosted before.”

“La Luz de Taos’ features 39 of the most exciting contemporary artists working in a variety of media including painting, pottery, sculpture, jewelry and fashion,” Koenig said. “Each piece will be offered at a predetermined set price and the drawing of entries will be held on May 21 at El Monte Sagrado Resort.” Those unable to make it to Taos can purchase absentee entries and put their names in the draw, he noted.

“The weekend will be so much more, though,” he continued. Tickets for the gala include a VIP reception at LRC on Friday, and a lecture by notable Western art curator Michael Grauer will precede the main festivities on Saturday. In addition to announcing the winners of the sale at El Monte, patrons will peruse a carefully curated silent auction; will enjoy wine and tasty bites; and will be entertained by a musical performance so special Koenig will not yet name the performer.

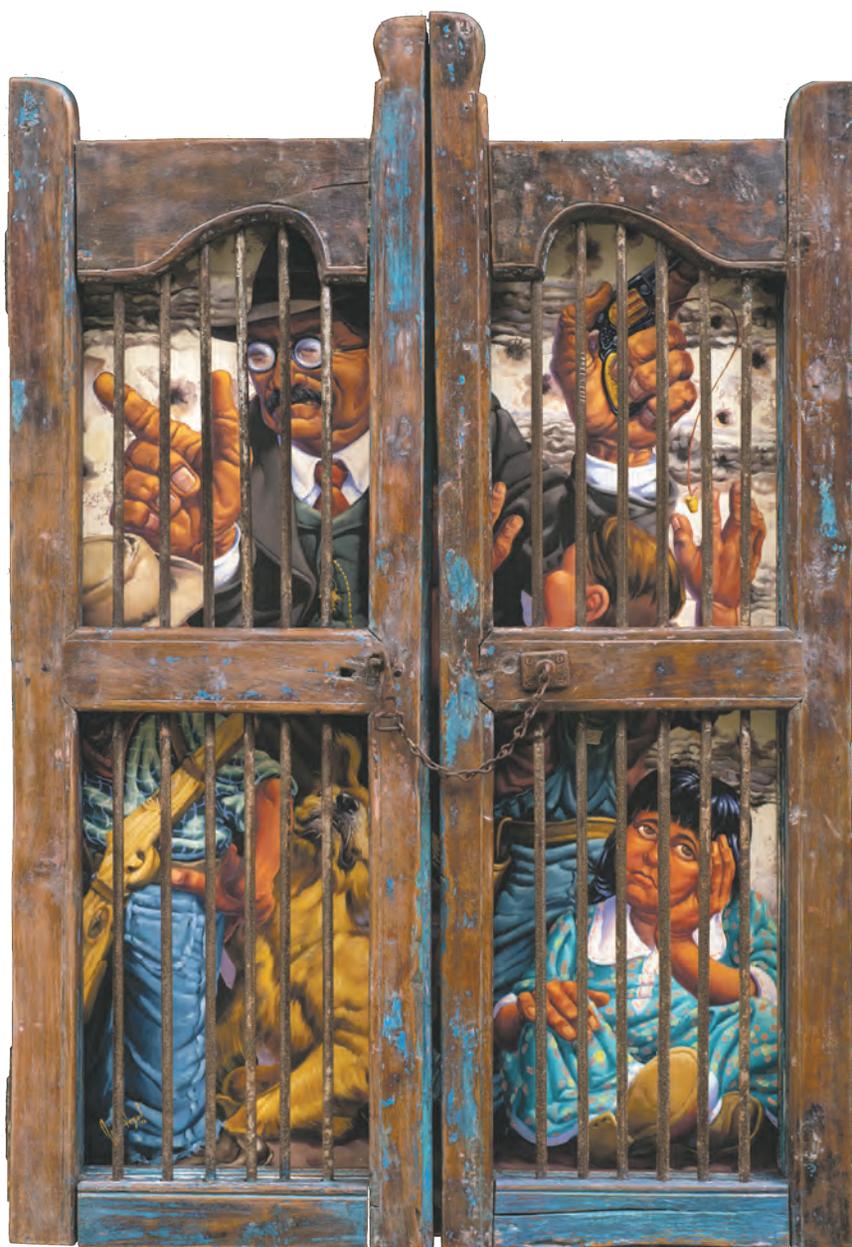
“Trust me: it’s a very, very special performance, but we’re not selling concert tickets,” he laughed.

“The evening winds up with a celebration of the 90th birthday of Virginia Couse Leavitt, art historian and guiding light of Couse-Sharp Historic Site. Cake will be served and we’ll unveil a bust of Ginnie, created by Ed Smida, to be installed at the site. The weekend concludes with a VIP tour of CSHS and a demonstration by renowned painter Sherrie McGraw.”

Couse Leavitt is the granddaughter of E. I. Couse who, along with J. H. Sharp, was a founding member of the Taos Society of Artists and who kept residences and studios which are part of the campus. Couse Leavitt and her late husband, Ernest, are singularly credited with the preservation of TSA’s profound social and artistic legacy.

“We planned for many years to preserve the Couse Archive for future generations of scholars, but never dreamed we could achieve the wonderful result that we have. These accomplishments were only achieved with the great support of numerous friends,” Couse Leavitt said. “So many people want to see the new building that our gala had to be totally rethought and it is shaping up to be the best ever, with extraordinary art and national exposure.”

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TOP LEFT: **Elfego Baca Recounts his Standoff...** , oil on canvas panel, 34 x 25, Artist: Jim Vogel ABOVE RIGHT: **Morning Blessings**, oil on canvas, 18 x 26, Artist: John Coleman



La Luz de Taos exhibition in the Dean Porter Gallery of The Lunder Research Center at Couse-Sharp Historic Site.

COURTESY PHOTOS



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THE CSHS IS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties, and is a National Trust Historic Artist’s Home and Studio. So the opening of LRC is truly consequential news: Its creation has been lauded by scholars, museums and donors from across the U.S. and its resources will be utilized by the international art community.

“Our story is a significant national one,” Koenig agreed. “It’s one of Taos being an intellectual center as much as a collective colony of artists.”

Gala ticket and art purchases directly support the Couse Foundation’s capital campaign and its endowment program earmarked for annual operating costs including staffing; residency and other programming; and maintenance and preservation of the historic properties. Its “impressive momentum” relies not only upon their donors and benefactors but also upon the dedication and support of its staff, the Board of Directors and the foundation’s National Advisory Council, Koenig wished to note.

“Our seventh biennial gala comes at a watershed moment for the Couse-Sharp Historic Site,” said Richard Rinehart, president of the Board. “In many ways it’s a debut of what we’ve been building here in Taos during the past few years of accelerated growth. The historic site is looking better than ever, and the LRC is now a beautiful physical presence. We want to share our excitement as we continue the work to make our archives, library and collections accessible to everyone who loves this art and history as much as we do.”

Visit the gala’s website, LaLuzdeTaos.org, for ticket information and calendar of events included with your admission a two-hour docent-led tour of the historic site, inquire at LRC or call 575-751-0369 to schedule an appointment. Though there is also a complete listing of art available for sale, why not plan an in-person visit to see the works included in the exhibition.

The Lunder Research Center is located at 138 Kit Carson Road, Taos. Hours are 12-4 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays.



PICTRUED RIGHT AND ON PAGE 14:

**'The Pueblo Revolt of 1680,' mixed media (polymer, wood, tin, gold leaf).
Artist: Paul Moore**

Concerning this artwork and its subject matter, Moore says: 'The Spanish arrived in what is now known as New Mexico in 1598 and imposed a strict religious, economic and political control over the pueblos. After many years of harsh and brutal rule the pueblo people had finally had enough; led on by a holy man, Popé, they plotted to overthrow the Spanish in 1680. Popé sent knotted ropes to all the Pueblo leaders with instructions to untie one knot each day and the day the last knot was undone they were to attack in unison, killing all the priests and Spanish individuals they could find. The successful revolt drove the Spanish south to the El Paso area for 11 years. Upon their return, they had to change their approach towards the Pueblo people, treating them and their religious beliefs with respect, which helped ensure the survival of their culture. This was the only successful uprising against colonization in North America. The names of the pueblos that took part in the uprising are in the circumference decoration of the Zia halo.'