

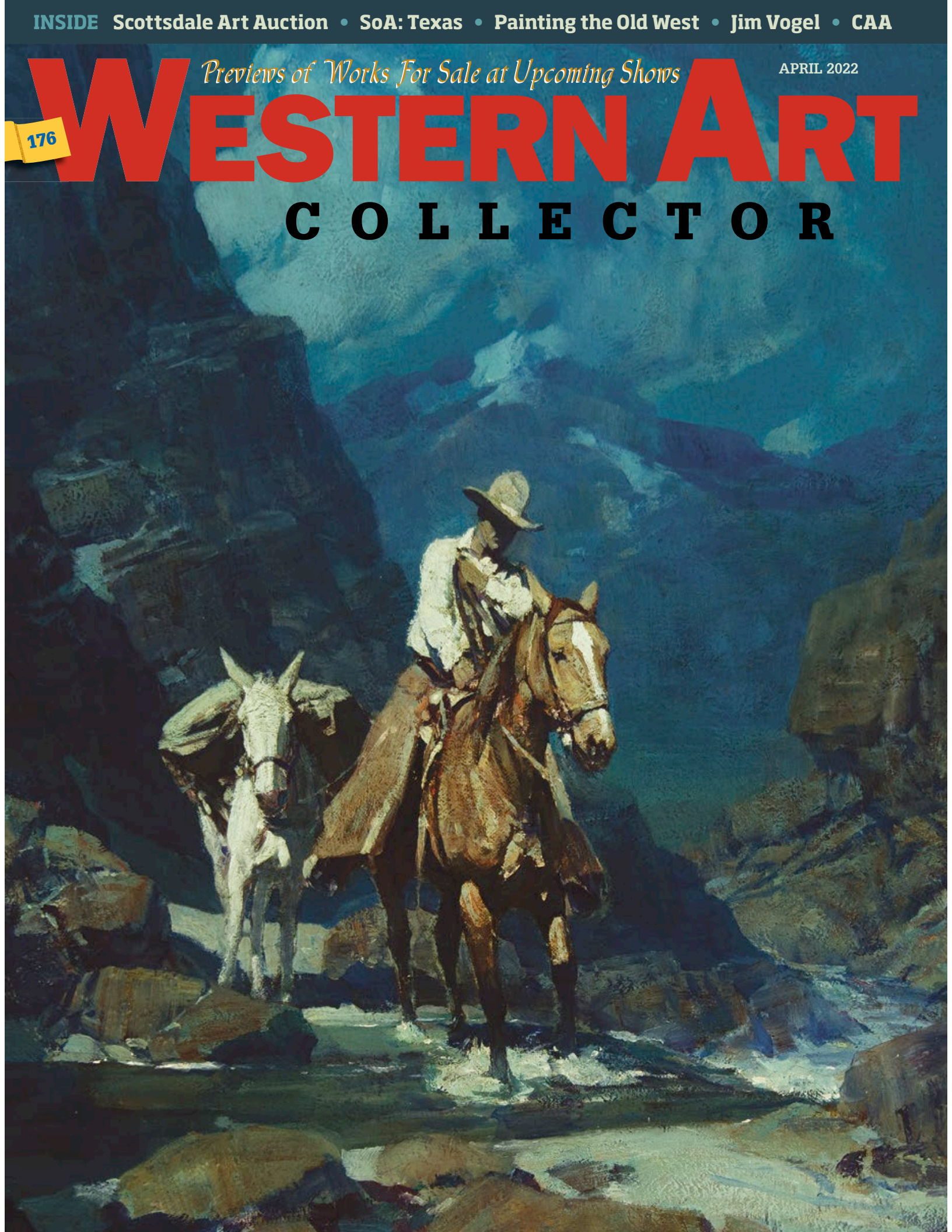
Previews of Works For Sale at Upcoming Shows

APRIL 2022

176

WESTERN ART

COLLECTOR





INTO THE LIGHTS

Top Western and Native American artists present new works at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site.

BY MICHAEL CLAWSON

Of all the Western art destinations in the country—from Scottsdale to Great Falls, Santa Fe to Jackson Hole—few are as universally treasured and historically hallowed as Taos, New Mexico. Home to the centuries-old Taos Pueblo and the Taos Society of Artists, which helped transformed Western art in just 12 short years, Taos is the bedrock that so much of Western art is built on. In Europe they say all roads lead to Rome. In the West, all trails lead to Taos.

That is being made abundantly clear at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site, where *La Luz de Taos* is now on display. The exhibition features 39 of the top Western artists working today. Many of them will openly admit their careers were directly influenced by the work of Taos artists—including the museum's namesakes, Eanger Irving Couse and Joseph Henry Sharp—or at the very least they benefited from the work done by Taos artists a century earlier. The dozen members of the Taos Society of Artists could

Right: Logan Maxwell Hagege, *Where the Rain Falls and the Sun Shines*, oil, 30 x 30"

Opposite page: John Coleman, *Morning Blessings*, oil on canvas, 18 x 26"



Jerry Jordan, *The Binding Force Which Bids Me Stay*, oil on canvas, 16 x 20"



Ed Mell, *Changing Seasons*, oil on linen, 22 x 22"



have not ever imagined their work would still be inspiring so many artists today.

“The TSA left a profound artistic and social legacy,” says Davison Packard Koenig, executive director at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site. “Inspired by the light, landscape, culture and people of Taos valley, these 12 artists shared their skills and resources to achieve together an impact that far outweighs what they could have accomplished as individuals. Their shared vision, of creating a uniquely American art, permanently influenced not only the world of art but also prevailing perceptions of Native America and the West. The assembled artists in *La Luz de Taos* represent a breadth of backgrounds, drawing inspiration from the vast landscape and culturally diverse peoples of Taos and the American West.”

The “culturally diverse” aspect of the exhibition is something Koenig is especially excited about. Not only is there Western paintings and bronzes, staples of any Western art show, but there is also an incredible selection of work by Native Americans. And not just more paintings and bronzes. *La Luz de Taos* will have glasswork by Ira

Top left: **Ira Lujan**, *Black on Black Glass Pottery Wedding Vase*, blown glass, 11 x 6”

Top right: **Thomas Blackshear II**, *High Hat*, oil, 31 x 23”

Left: **Susan Folwell**, *Rain Makers* (Inspired by Eanger Irving Couse’s *Hopi Flute Dance*, 1922), clay with acrylic, leather and watercolor, 18 x 15 x 5”



Mark Maggiori, *Sacred Sunset*,
oil, 22½ x 24"



Josh Elliott, *Full Swing on the
Rio Grande*, oil, 20 x 30"



Eric Bowman, *Little Big Man*, oil, 8 x 10"

Lujan, pottery by Susan Folwell and Russell Sanchez, photography by Cara Romero, jewelry by Pat Pruitt and Maria Samora, fashion by Patricia Michaels, bronze work by Tammy Garcia and paintings by Tony Abeyta. Their work will appear next to new pieces from Logan Maxwell Hagege, Josh Elliott, Glenn Dean, Mark Maggiori, Walt Gonske, Sherrie McGraw, Ed Mell, Paul Moore, Nicholas Coleman, Jim Vogel, Roseta Santiago and many others.

The exhibition, which opened March 5, is on view in the Couse-Sharp Historic Site's new Lunder Research Center through May 21, when the works will be sold during a biennial gala. The fixed-price, by-draw sale, will directly benefit the site and its mission to preserve and celebrate the Taos Society of Artists. "Our seventh biennial gala comes at a watershed moment for the Couse-Sharp Historic Site," says Richard Rinehart, president of the organization's board of directors. "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 Lunder Research Center 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



Maria Samora, *Lace Collection*, necklace, oxidized sterling silver with 18K gold dots

much as we do.”

John Coleman will not only be supplying the exhibition an artwork, but he has also donated the painting entirely to the museum to sell, knowing that all the proceeds can then be used by the site for its programming and exhibitions. “This is a community that is important to me,” Coleman says. “I’ve never been part of the Taos community, but I’ve always been interested in it and admired it. Anything an artist can do to plant seeds for

the future, that’s always important.” Coleman’s piece is *Morning Blessings*, an oil painting that shows a young girl sitting quietly in deep shadows while she’s illuminated from above. The girl who modeled for the painting is the daughter of Oreland Joe, a fellow painter and sculptor.

Other work in the exhibition include the work of rising Western star Brett Allen Johnson, who paints a rocky hilltop in his distinctly modernist style; Taos painter Jerry Jordan,

who painted people from the Taos Pueblo in a rainbow-like cascade of colorful wearing blankets; Ed Mell’s *Changing Season*, showing an abstracted storm fragmenting around a desert mountain; and Thomas Blackshear II, who paints a striking portrait of a Native American man in a magnificent hat. Also in the exhibition will be a weaving by Carla Bogdanoff, an elaborately framed painting by Jim Vogel and clothing items by Petecia Le Fawnhawk, as well as a new painting by her husband, Mark Maggiori.

For Koenig, the executive director of the site, he’s excited to have great art on hand at this quantity and quality, but he’s also thrilled to have regular visitors again after a long period of by-appointment-only viewing as New Mexico has come out of the pandemic. “It was very quiet here for a long time,” he says. “But now we’re offering many reasons for people to come out and see the site. Not to mention a big three-day party in May.”

When it came time to choose the artists, Koenig, who famously keeps tabs on many aspects of the Western art market, said he already knew which artists to ask for artwork. “One of the great joys of my career is following the art scene very closely, including going to auctions and shows, going to exhibitions, reading *Western Art Collector*, following these artists on social media,” he says. “We wanted to carefully curate the show with the story of Taos in mind. So not only do our artists represent the diversity of the American West, they represent some of the tops artists working today.”

Asked to speculate what the Taos Society of Artists would think of their work still being celebrated a century later, Koenig says: “I think they would be thrilled to know that their work was still relevant. It’s still achieving records prices at auction, it’s still shown in museums around the world, and it’s still inspiring new generations of artists. I think they would be absolutely tickled to see all that.”



LA LUZ DE TAOS
Through May 21, 2022
Couse-Sharp Historic Site,
146 Kit Carson Road, Taos, NM 87571
(575) 751-0369, www.laluzdetaos.org,
www.couse-sharp.org

Carla Bogdanoff, weaving, Navajo churro wool, hand-dyed with natural and acid-free dyes

The Material West

I can't even begin to tell you how excited I get when we start seeing new artwork coming into our offices for articles in future *Western Art Collector* issues. It starts as a slow trickle and then steadily turns into a deluge. It's like Christmas every 90 minutes in our inboxes.

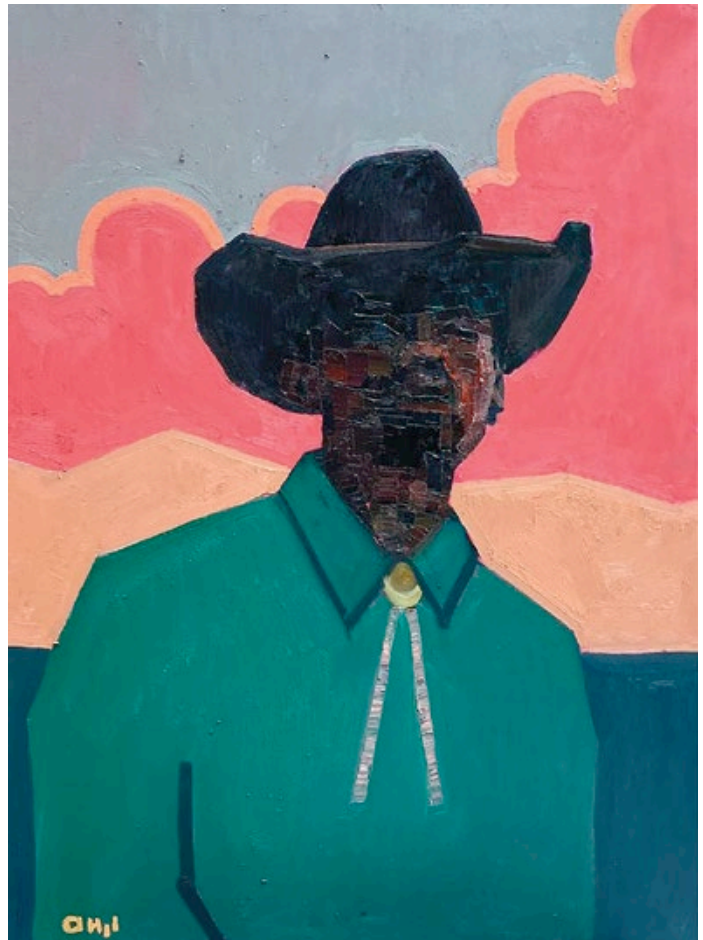
What's so astounding about this month's issue, and so many of our past issues, is the incredible diversity of materials. Of course, there are lots of paintings and bronzes—those works are our bread and butter—but then we also have a weaving in this issue, some pueblo pottery, jewelry, fashion, leather and silver material, works on paper and so much more. Some of these materials are coming from our coverage of *La Luz de Taos* at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site. The site's executive director, Davison Packard Koenig, is doing something really amazing: he's showing artwork of all varieties, and not just paintings and bronzes. If it's art and it speaks to this grand idea—the West with a capital W—then it belongs in his show. I love it!

And then we're also seeing some truly wonderful new artists coming up who are telling fascinating stories and telling them in unique ways. One relatively new artist in this issue who is already making waves is Aaron Hazel, whose powerful new paintings are at Manitou Galleries this month. Hazel's work is joining an exciting issue: we have gallery and museum previews all around the country, we have coverage of the new Cowboy Artists of America show at the Briscoe Western Art Museum, we dive into the *Scottsdale Art Auction* headfirst and so much more. The fact that these materials are all in one magazine—in one issue, even—and that they all speak to this idea that we all love is what makes me excited to check my email every morning.

I hope you enjoy this issue!



Michael Clawson
Executive Editor
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Aaron Hazel, *Spark*, oil, 40 x 30". Courtesy Manitou Galleries.

Western Art Trail Calendar

Our guide to special events, sales & auctions from coast to coast



Gerard Curtis Delano (1890-1972), *Navajo Night*, oil, 16 x 20" Estimate: \$60/80,000

APRIL 8-9: SCOTTSDALE ART AUCTION

Scottsdale Art Auction | Session I and II | Scottsdale, AZ | (480) 945-0225 | www.scottsdaleartauktion.com

March

MARCH 24-31

KING GALLERIES

Roseña Santiago:

Messages and Messengers

Scottsdale, AZ – (480) 481-0187

www.kingalleries.com

MARCH 25-SEPTEMBER 4

DESERT CABALLEROS WESTERN MUSEUM

***Cowgirl Up! Art from the
Other Half of the West***

Wickenburg, AZ – (928) 684-2272

www.westernmuseum.org

April

APRIL 1

HECHO A MANO

Grand Opening of Second Location

Santa Fe, NM – (505) 455-6882

www.hecho.gallery.com

APRIL 1-22

INSIGHT GALLERY

Mark Haworth

Fredericksburg, TX – (830) 997-9920

www.insightgallery.com

APRIL 1-MAY 2

MANITOU GALLERIES

Young Guns

Santa Fe, NM – (505) 986-0440

www.manitougalleries.com

THROUGH APRIL 2

ED MELL GALLERY

Ed Mell

Phoenix, AZ – (602) 359-7333

www.edmellgallery.com

THROUGH APRIL 2

STEAMBOAT ART MUSEUM

Portrayals of the American West

Steamboat Springs, CO – (970) 870-1755

www.steamboatartmuseum.org

APRIL 2-30

THE PLAINSMEN GALLERY

Wildlife & Western Visions

Dunedin, FL – (727) 734-8200

www.plainsmengallery.com

On View Now

THROUGH MAY 1
**NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN
HERITAGE MUSEUM**

Mother Roads

Oklahoma City, OK – (405) 478-2250

www.nationalcowboymuseum.org

THROUGH MAY 8
**NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN
HERITAGE MUSEUM**

The Santa Fe Trail

Oklahoma City, OK – (405) 478-2250

www.nationalcowboymuseum.org

THROUGH MAY 15
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WILDLIFE ART

While They're Sleeping:

A Story of Bears

Jackson, WY – (307) 733-5771

www.wildlifeart.org

THROUGH MAY 15
THE BOOTH MUSEUM

***Friends Reunited: T. D. Kelsey, Julie Oriet
and the Keough Collection***

Cartersville, GA – (770) 387-1300

www.boothmuseum.org

THROUGH MAY 21
COUSE-SHARP HISTORIC SITE

La Luz de Taos

Taos, NM – (575) 751-0369

www.couse-sharp.org

THROUGH JULY 17
NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART

The Art of Jean LaMarr

Reno, NV – (775) 329-3333

www.nevadaart.org

THROUGH JULY 24
PHIPPEN MUSEUM

If Horses Could Talk:

The Art of Bill Nebeker, CA

Prescott, AZ – (928) 778-1385

www.phippenartmuseum.org



Top, Susan Folwell, *Rain Makers* (Inspired by E.I. Couse's "Hopi Flute Dance" 1922), clay with acrylic, leather, watercolor, 18h x 15w x 5d; center, Logan Maxwell Hagege, *Where the Rain Falls and the Sun Shines*, oil, 30 x 30; bottom, John Coleman, *Morning Blessings*, oil on canvas, 18 x 26

2022 La LUZ de TAOS

A SHINING NEW EXHIBITION & BENEFIT ART SALE




On view MARCH 5–MAY 20 at THE LUNDER RESEARCH CENTER at COUSE-SHARP HISTORIC SITE in Taos, New Mexico, is a stunning collection of 39 works in a variety of media by some of the most exciting contemporary artists in America.

The works will be sold at fixed prices in a May 21 live draw at LA LUZ DE TAOS BIENNIAL GALA benefiting the Site's programs. Visit LaLuzdeTaos.org to find out how you can claim your chance to own one of these stellar works—by attending the Gala or by making absentee purchase arrangements.

LaLuzdeTaos.org

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|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Tony Abeyta | Phil Epp | Sherrie McGraw |
| Bill Acheff | Susan Folwell | Patricia Michaels |
| Clyde Aspevig | Tammy Garcia | Ed Mell |
| Thomas Blackshear II | Victor Goler | Paul Moore |
| Carla Bogdanoff | Walt Gonske | Chris Morel |
| Eric Bowman | Logan Maxwell Hagege | Pat Pruitt |
| Chloé Marie Burk | Brett Allen Johnson | Cara Romero |
| G. Russell Case | Jerry Jordan | Maria Samora |
| S. M. Chavez | Jivan Lee | Russell Sanchez |
| John Coleman | Petecia Le Fawnhawk | Roseta Santiago |
| Nicholas Coleman | David A. Leffel | Ed Sandoval |
| Glenn Dean | Ira Lujan | Ed Smida |
| Josh Elliott | Mark Maggiori | Jim Vogel |

couse-sharp.org
TAOS, NEW MEXICO

-  thecousesharphistoricsite
-  cousesharp
-  Couse Sharp

