

OCTOBER 2021 | FALL

THE LEGACY

COUSE-SHARP
HISTORIC SITE

Glimpses of the Past EXHIBITION A PHENOMENAL SUCCESS

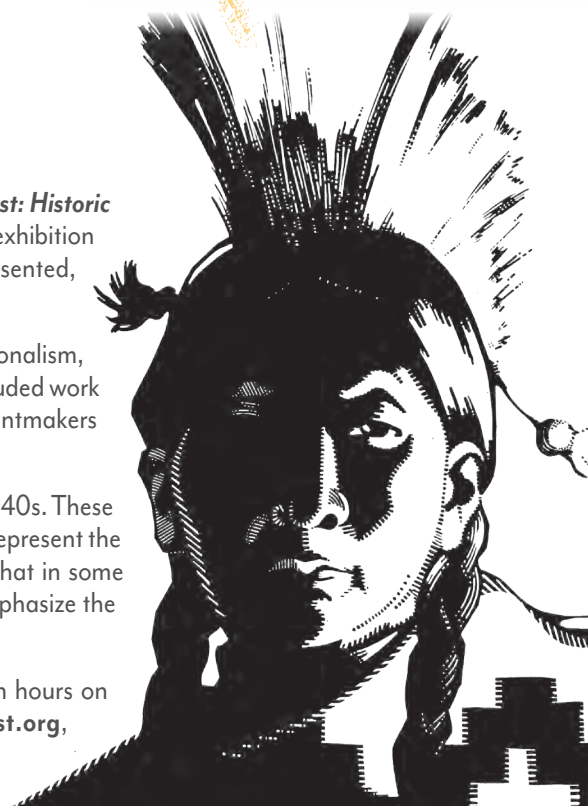


Visitors continue to flock to the Site to see the exhibition *Glimpses of the Past: Historic New Mexico Prints, 1880-1950*, in the Luna Chapel. The popularity of the exhibition attests not only to interest in the wide variety of printmaking processes represented, but in the 52 early representations of northern New Mexico that it includes.

"The exhibition is stylistically diverse with examples of academic realism, regionalism, modernism and cubist-inspired abstraction," said David Clemmer, guest curator. "We've included work by artists who will be familiar to many, but the primary focus is on the work of lesser-known printmakers who worked in New Mexico for a few years, for a season, or even only for a few days."

Most of the prints are by artists who passed through the region briefly in the 1920s through the '40s. These rare images are from a private collection made over a period of 20 years. Many of the prints represent the early churches of New Mexico. One visitor knowledgeable about the subject pointed out that in some cases they are no longer extant, an example being a church at Tesuque, which serves to emphasize the historic importance of this collection.

The exhibition runs through Nov. 6; check the couse-sharp.org website for details of open hours on Saturdays and how arrange access by appointment. A website, GlimpsesOfThePast.org, showcases the works as well.



Bringing the legacy to life

Dear Friends of the
Couse-Sharp Historic Site,

There is much to be thankful for here at the Site as we look to the Fall with cooler weather followed by the holidays with family and friends in this, our 20th anniversary year.

We relaunched our *Bringing the Legacy to Life* capital campaign to complete funding for The Lunder Research Center in June and are grateful for the generous response of our donors. At present we still need to raise more than \$1,000,000 to complete the funding and retire the construction financing.

As part of the campaign, we plan to build a \$5,000,000 endowment to create a sustainable source of funding for our programs. To date, including legacy

pledges from donor estate plans, we have commitments of \$1,100,000.

Please also take a look at the impressive list of members of our Founders Society on page 3. The Founders Society represents donors who have given cumulative gifts over \$100,000 to The Couse Foundation during the past 20 years. Thanks for your continuing support and confidence in us.

We also thank those who have recently donated or pledged to fund the Virginia Couse Leavitt Archive Chair position for the next four years. With a few more pledges, we will be able to fully fund our archivist position going forward.

Please peruse this year's list of donors to the Foundation on page 3. Whether they've given a thank-you for a tour, a special gift for a project, a donation to The Lunder Research Center, a painting for an auction, or funding for our programs, we're grateful for the trust and generosity of our supporters.

We hope you all know how much we appreciate each and every one of you. We could not do this without you.

Sincerely,
Rich Rinehart, President
The Couse Foundation



COMPETITIVE GRANT AWARDS FUEL KEY PROJECTS

The Institute for Museum and Library Services recently awarded Couse-Sharp Historic Site \$42,526 as part of its *Inspire! Grants for Small Museums* initiative, allowing us to build on projects funded by previous grants.

The “E. I. Couse Original Cellulose Nitrate and Glass Plate Negatives Preservation and Digitization Project” will digitize and make accessible approximately 11,500 negatives in the Couse Family Photo Collection. The project dovetails with our 2020 grant of about the same size from the National Endowment for the Humanities. That grant funded preservation and accessibility for Couse’s original contact prints.

In 2018, we were awarded funds from the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board (NMHRAB) to hire a contract archivist. Generous private donations allowed us to create a full-time archivist/collections manager position. Through a \$6750 award from NMHRAB this year, we will hire an archives assistant on contract.



“These awards have enabled us to prioritize the preservation and access of our collections, both on a digital platform as well as for in-person visitors to The Lunder Research Center” said Marissa M. Hendriks, The Virginia Couse Leavitt Archivist Chair and Collections Manager. “These resources have never before been available to researchers and making them accessible to the public for the very first time will open the doors to the creation of new scholarship, art, and conversations about the Taos Society of Artists and the unique history of art in Taos.”

OUR 2021 INTERN



We wave a fond goodbye to our latest summer intern from the University of Oklahoma (OU) Native American Art History doctoral program, Olivia Von Gries. Among other activities, Olivia catalogued Couse ephemera and recently discovered Native American objects and santos from his collections; researched artists for catalog bios; and was our chief harvester for the Couse vegetable garden. We hope to be able to work with her again! Special thanks go to Holly and Tom Azzari for hosting Olivia for her 12-week tenure in Taos.



Executive Director Davison Koenig speaks to guests on August 13 at the Montana home of our board member Carolyn Quan. Koenig and board chairman Tim Newton explained the significance of The Lunder Research Center and Couse-Sharp Historic Site to about 50 attendees at the “friendraiser” in support of our \$8 million Bringing the Legacy to Life capital and endowment campaign. We’re grateful to Carolyn and her spouse, Porter Bennett, for underwriting and hosting the event, and all the donors who’ve responded so far.

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

Couse-Sharp Historic Site actively seeks archival material relating to the 12 artists of the Taos Society and their close associates such as models and family members. Examples include photographs, letters, sketches, or notes by scholars who studied these artists. If you have in your personal collection any such material, we’d love to discuss a possible donation with you! Also, if you run across a “lead” on relevant material that crops up at auction or in an estate, please contact us. And of course we are always looking for original artwork by the 12 artists.



At long last, it’s a reality: Couse-Sharp Historic Site is the first museum in Taos to have a solar array producing electricity to help power our operations—and lower our utility bills. The 9 kilowatt array, inaugurated in August, is on top of the “lower studios” building and invisible from the street and most of the historic site. We extend deep gratitude to longtime friend of the site Thomas Azzari as the initiating force for the project, and to the Azzari Family for providing the funding to make it happen.

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 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 GuideStar, the world’s largest source of information on non-profits. See our profile at [Guidestar.org](https://www.guidestar.org)



ESTATE ART PROGRAM

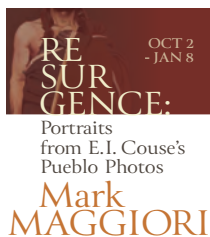
If you collect art and have been contemplating your estate planning, consider our program to coordinate the donation (full or partial) and sale of your artwork, thus enabling you to “do well and do good.” Contact us at 575.751.0369 to inquire.

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. 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 special-purpose and planned giving, see couse-sharp.org/ways-to-give

couse-sharp.org

RESURGENCE SHOWCASES CONTEMPORARY PORTRAITS FROM HISTORICAL COUSE PHOTOS



Our inaugural artist-in-residence, Mark Maggiori, is showing select works from a series—based on E. I. Couse photographs—in the Dean Porter Gallery of The Lunder Research Center. The paintings in *Resurgence: Mark Maggiori Portraits from E.I. Couse's Pueblo Photos* are on exhibit from October through early January alongside the photos that inspired them and a selection of the original garments worn by the photo models. The six paintings have been sold and a portion of the proceeds donated to the Site.

Maggiori, a French-American artist who is one of the most exciting and well respected of the “new generation” of American realist painters, moved with his family to Taos in 2020. Shortly after arriving, Mark began working in the 1915 J. H. Sharp Studio, which was made possible due to our closure in response to pandemic restrictions.

“I discovered the photograph collection of Couse last year while I was in residence at the Sharp Studio,” Maggiori said. “I felt transported in a time machine. I felt so lucky to be one of the first people to see this material that was being scanned for the first time. I couldn’t believe my eyes. Right away came this challenging idea of trying to repaint these images in color. Every detail on these photos is unique and a testimony of the life of Taos Pueblo in the early 1900s.” Inspired by this treasure trove, he began a series of portraits of Taos Pueblo models.

“It’s fitting for us to open The Lunder Research Center gallery with this series,” said Davison Koenig, executive director and curator. “Mark’s artwork is a compelling example of why archives matter. We built an archive and research center for early Taos art so that artists, scholars, and the public can be inspired. The legacy of the Taos Society of Artists, in many ways, rests with this new generation of artists.”



Mark Maggiori, *The Son*, 2021, oil on linen, 30" x 24"

NEW PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTE ARTS EDUCATION

Mark Maggiori, Parsons Gallery of the West, and Couse-Sharp Historic Site have collaborated to create the Taos Pueblo Art Education Fund (TPAEF) for students at Taos Day School at Taos Pueblo.

As the first artist-in-residence at Couse-Sharp Historic Site, Maggiori painted in J. H. Sharp’s 1915 Studio from May through September 2020 until he settled into his own studio. He had a sold-out solo show at Parsons Gallery of the West on Sept. 26, 2020. From the proceeds of the show, an associated poster sold through CSHS, and a donation from a collector, we were able to raise more than \$15,000 for the youth of Taos Pueblo.

In January 2021, TPAEF volunteers delivered art supplies for 85 students who attend the pueblo’s Day School (TDS) to be sent home for use in remote learning.

For three years, Couse-Sharp Historic Site hosted fifth- and sixth-grade children from

TDS on a field trip to the Site. The fund will support growing this program to include field trips to other museums and galleries in Taos. We are also planning workshops with the students taught by artists including Maggiori and Native potter Susan Folwell (Santa Clara Pueblo).

We are working with TDS to strengthen the curriculum so that every child will understand the importance their ancestors played and continue to play in their work with the TSA, helping to change prevailing perceptions of Native Americans.

CSHS has reached out to other members of the Taos community for volunteers to coordinate the growth of our education program beyond TDS, to introduce more local students to the rich heritage of early Taos art.



The poster for Mark Maggiori’s September 2020 exhibition is an emblem of the partnership to expand an arts education program for Taos Day School students and beyond.

Just in time for the holidays

The Couse Foundation has rare art books, videos, greeting cards, and wonderful publications of our own for sale at the Site and on our website at couse-sharp.org/shop. We sell signed prints of artistic interpretations of E. I. Couse’s easel in his studio, one by Thayer Carter and another by

Leon Loughridge. A special addition is a limited run of 2021 restrike prints from Rosella de Milhau’s ca. 1925 etching of a scene at Taos Pueblo, featured in the *Glimpses of the Past* exhibition detailed on page 1. The poster for the *Resurgence* exhibition is available at ResurgenceMaggiori.com. Proceeds benefit our programs!



THE COUSE FOUNDATION DONORS, SEPTEMBER 2020–AUGUST 2021

Donations that include an in-kind or artwork component are marked with an asterisk. For space reasons we cannot acknowledge the many donations less than \$100 in this issue, as much as we appreciate them. Every penny counts!

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Dr Karen McNeil Smith
Bernice Steinhardt in memory of
Jay Rosenbaum
Pat Randall in memory of Norma Couse
Tom Bonner in honor of David Clemmer

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20 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Hello Friends,

The Virginia creeper has begun to blush autumnal crimson. In the spirit of Fall as a time of reflection, I muse on the 20th anniversary of The Couse Foundation. While 20 years may sound like a long time, in the museum world—renowned for moving at glacial speed—it is merely the blink of an eye, especially considering the depth of history our Site represents. In truth, the rise of our museum has been nothing less than meteoric.

Twenty years ago Ginnie and Ernie had a vision of what the Site could be: a perfectly preserved glimpse into Taos' past, a center for research and scholarship on the Taos Society of Artists and the nuanced story of the West, and a way to share with the world one of the most important yet unsung American art movements.

Now, that vision has become reality. By the time you read this, we will have begun to move into The Lunder Research Center and opened our first exhibition in what has become the most advanced museum facility in New Mexico. Thanks to our architect, design team, and a donation by Carol and Dean Porter of 38 pieces of period Mission furniture, it's possibly the most beautiful.

As a nonprofit we practice fiscal responsibility and have long kept a year's operating costs in reserve. Our small but nimble and entrepreneurial staff continually work to diversify our revenue streams, which include donations, grants, publications, auctions, artwork, and the Estate Art Program. Through strategic planning and focused outreach, Couse-Sharp Historic Site is now nationally recognized by our colleagues and friends in the art world and is a national and international destination.

I could not be more proud of what our staff, board, and volunteers have achieved, but we cannot do it without your continued support and investment in the legacy of Taos art.

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

Our Next Gala Weekend: MAY 20-22, 2022

The postponement of our seventh biennial 2021 Gala and Art Auction gave us an opportunity to rethink our goals for the event and to build a stellar list of participating artists—the largest ever. The improvements are a big enough deal that we decided to come up with a snazzy name for the event: **La Luz de Taos**.

MARCH 5 | Exhibition opening of new works by 35+ participating contemporary artists, in the Dean Porter Gallery

MAY 20 EVENING | The Lunder Research Center opening celebration; preview of art

MAY 21 MORNING | Lecture by prominent art scholar Michael Grauer

MAY 21 EVENING | Gala at El Monte Sagrado Resort with food; ballot drawing sale of the exhibited works (rather than auction); silent auction onsite; birthday party for Virginia Couse Leavitt

MAY 22 MIDDAY | Exclusive tour of the historic site with artist demonstration by Sherrie McGraw

Stay tuned for more information about tickets to **La Luz de Taos**!

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MARISSA M. HENDRIKS
Archivist & Collections Manager; Taos, NM

REGINA MCASKILL SCHERFFIUS
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THE MISSION

of The Couse Foundation is to preserve and interpret the Couse-Sharp Historic Site, its buildings, grounds, collections, and the archives of the Taos Society of Artists, through education, collaboration and scholarly engagement.

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.

THE COUSE FOUNDATION
146 Kit Carson Road
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Taos, NM 87571

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admin@couse-sharp.org

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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HISTORIC ARTISTS'
HOMES & STUDIOS

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Virginia Couse Leavitt draws the winner of *A Friendship* by Josh Elliott, flanked by Executive Director Davison Koenig (left) and Board President Rich Rinehart.

20 THANKS FOR HELPING CELEBRATE OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Our usual biennial Gala and Art Auction previously scheduled for June 2021 in Taos was postponed (see more information about the new event on page 5). More than 100 friends of the Site instead bought tickets to our 20th Anniversary Commemoration, receiving a keepsake gift and a chance to win a specially commissioned (and donated) oil by Josh Elliott.

To give away our virtual door prize, Site Historian Virginia Couse Leavitt drew a winning name on June 12: the Bachhuber family of Nevada. *A Friendship* depicts E. I. Couse and his friend and favored model Ben Lujan in front of the Couse Home.

In the absence of our usual in-person biennial art auction, we partnered with Hindman Auctions to include 24 lots in their Auction of Western Paintings and Sculpture including Contemporary Native American Art, presented online May 6. Many generous friends stepped up to donate artwork to help fund our programs. Hindman generously forewent the customary seller's premium to benefit our organization.

Between our first-ever online auction and the Commemoration, we raised about \$125,000. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who bought a ticket, sent generous donations in response to our anniversary, or donated art to the charity auction.



OCTOBER 2021 | FALL

THE LEGACY

THE COUSE FOUNDATION 20TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS



Congratulations to The Couse Foundation
on their 20th anniversary & the opening of
The Lunder Research Center!

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We are thrilled to
support this special
place within the
Taos arts community.
Here's to inspiring
artists for the next
20 years and more!



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