

# A Century Later

Taos, New Mexico, to celebrate 100 years since the formation of the influential Taos Society of Artists.



The six founding members of the Taos Society of Artists— from left: Joseph Henry Sharp, Ernest Blumenschein, William Herbert Dunton, Eanger Irving Couse, Bert Geer Phillips, and Oscar E. Berninghaus— stand in Virginia Walker Couse's garden in 1915.

Many important dates mark the early years of the Taos Society of Artists: 1893, the year Joseph Henry Sharp first visited Taos, New Mexico; 1894, when two young artists overheard Sharp talking about the Taos Pueblo in Paris; and 1898, when a wagon hauling Ernest Blumenschein and Bert Geer Phillips broke down near the New Mexico village.

All these dates are trumped by 1915, the year the six original artists—Sharp, Blumenschein, Phillips, William Herbert Dunton, Eanger Irving Couse and Oscar E. Berninghaus—officially started the art collective known as the Taos Society of Artists. A century later, the group's contribution to all art, especially Western art, will be celebrated throughout Taos with a summer of programming and exhibitions.

One of the early events is *Past, Present and Future: A Celebration of Taos Art Colony* hosted by the Taos Arts Council. The exhibition, featuring artists from throughout Taos County and northern New Mexico, will open April 17 at Taos Town Hall. It continues through July 17.

Other events include a special reception and roundtable discussion with descendants of the Taos Society of Artists members. The roundtable discussion, a ticketed event, will take place June 5 at the Taos Center for the Arts and will be moderated by Thomas Brent Smith, director of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art at the Denver Art Museum. The open house and reception will take place June 6 at the Couse House, a historic location where the members

would occasionally gather.

These events and others are part of the *100 Years of Taos Celebration*, which will continue with programming and shows

at many of Taos' museums and galleries. Shows are being added frequently, so stay tuned to [www.taos.org/calendars](http://www.taos.org/calendars) for show information and updates. 🎨



Joseph Henry Sharp in his studio. Photo from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, Wyoming. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Fenn, P.22.90. Images Courtesy The Couse Foundation.