

Collecting the West

Desert Caballeros Western Museum presents the Tia Collection of paintings and sculpture interpreting the culture of the American West.

Through March 2, the Desert Caballeros Western Museum (DCWM) showcases a private collection that chronicles the land, people, wildlife and history of the great American West in paintings and sculpture. Historic photographs, letters and sketches from the collection's archive also are on display.

The Tia Collection, named after the anonymous collector's daughter, was started in 2006 as a personal exploration into the world of art. The collector's mission is to form a body of work to be enjoyed and inspire a worldwide audience. His passion for the culture of the American West has helped shape a significant portion of the collection. On display are works by such historic artists as E.I. Couse, E. Martin Hennings, and Victor Higgins along with contemporary pieces by Christo, Walt

Gonske, Glenna Goodacre, and Fritz Scholder, complementing the museum's own acquisitions.

"The owner of the Tia Collection has taken it as his mission to share the works in his collection with a broad public for inspiration and enrichment. The DCWM is thrilled to have been selected to support this endeavor," remarks Mary Ann Igna, DCWM deputy director and curator. "His passion for the culture of the great American West can be seen in this selection of paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture by artists as diverse as Joseph Henry Sharp, Allan Houser, and Woody Gwyn."

Each work of art has been carefully and painstakingly chosen by the collector. Rather than keep these treasures at home to be viewed and enjoyed by a limited audience, he desires to share these acquisitions with the public in

hopes of inspiring people and exposing them to "the value of art as a form of expression," he states. "Art, whether it is fine art, performance art, writing, filmmaking or something else, is exquisitely unique and valuable. One must understand that not everyone is fortunate enough to be able to express himself. Many are unable to channel their emotions and intellect; some are in situations—political or social—where they are not allowed this freedom; and most are not even sure what it is they would express if given the opportunity."

He continues, "Through a museum, though, this inspiration can be shared with a limitless number of people. Its influence is infinite—it rolls on, fosters appreciation, inspires others to create. It can create a movement and change our entire civilization."



Nicolai Fechin (1881-1955), *Winter Landscape, Taos*, oil on canvas, 15 x 24"



Joseph Henry Sharp (1859-1953), *Old War Chief's Son*, oil on canvas, 22 x 27"



Kenneth Adams (1897-1966), *Juanita*, ca. 1937, oil, 30 1/4 x 24 1/4"

PHOTO BY DAN BARSOITINO



Glenna Goodacre (b. 1939), *Spotted Tail*, 1999, bronze, 43 x 14 x 16"



Fritz Scholder (1937-2005), *Fred Harvey Indian*, ca. 1974, oil, 80 x 68". All works from the private collection of Tia©.

Collecting the West: The Tia Collection



When: Through March 2, 2014
Where: Desert Caballeros Western Museum, 21 N. Frontier Street, Wickenburg, AZ 85390
Information: (928) 684-2272, www.westernmuseum.org