

# NOTES & NEWS

Image

COUSE-SHARP  
HISTORIC SITE

SUMMER 2024

*Welcome to the quarterly electronic newsletter from Couse-Sharp Historic Site. We strive to refrain from flooding you with email; on average we send something out once a quarter. We never lend, rent, or sell your contact information and never will. Our next full newsletter will be mailed in hard copy in Fall 2024—please contact us if you aren't on our snail-mail list and want to be. Enjoy!*

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## *La Luz de Taos 2024: A Smashing Success*



The two-day series of events came at the end of a two-month exhibition of 60 works by 50 artists in media including painting, sculpture, ceramics, glass, printmaking, jewelry and textiles. As well as the preview reception, attendees had the opportunity to tour the historic site, learn from a lecture by Dr. Marie Watkins, and participate in the draw sale and secret-bid auction during the gala at El Monte Sagrado Resort. **In total, the event raised over \$285,000 to support the mission and vision of the Couse-Sharp Historic Site, with over \$150,000 netted from art sales alone.**

About 300 people attended the gala, including representatives of 45 sponsors. For the first time in the organization's history, the exhibition/gala committee was helmed by honorary chairs: Peter and Paula Lunder, renowned collectors and philanthropists, who through The Lunder Foundation of Portland, Maine, provide key support for CSHS's Lunder Research Center and Colby College Museum Fellows program.

The exhibition was dedicated to the memory of artist Ed Mell, a good friend of the site who passed away earlier this year, and two of Mell's works were exhibited in a place of honor on both days.

"We are beyond grateful to our artists, sponsors, donors, attendees, and purchasers for their generosity and committed support of our mission and vision," Davison Packard Koenig, Executive Director and Curator.

Several pieces from the art sale are still available for purchase! Visit [laluzdetaos.org/exhibition](http://laluzdetaos.org/exhibition) to view works, and email us at [admin@couse-sharp.org](mailto:admin@couse-sharp.org) to learn more.

# In Full Bloom: Update on the Gardens of Couse-Sharp Historic Site

The historic Virginia Walker Couse Garden and the Joseph Henry Sharp gardens are in full bloom this summer. The staff enjoys the bounties from our vegetable garden in meals prepared by each other, and our University of Oklahoma research fellow, Abby Mikalauskas, created delicious apricot jam from our abundant harvest. Staff is often found outside, working on their laptops, soaking in the beautiful Taos summer sun.

The Site has hosted tours from dedicated garden groups over the past several months, including the Friends of the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, the New Mexico Native Plant Society, and Los Jardineros de Taos.

**Make sure to mark your calendars for our annual seed and plant cutting giveaway at our Fall Open House, October 5!**

Operational costs to maintain both gardens are approximately \$25,000 per year. A generous supporter of Couse-Sharp Historic Site has presented us with a **\$50k matching challenge grant** to support the operations of both gardens. Would you consider donating to meet the match? Click the link below to make a tax-deductible donation today:

[Support the Couse + Sharp Gardens](#)



## Bonanza Book Sale - August 3

Generous bibliophiles have donated a plethora of books to our growing library. However, many of the volumes don't fall within the collection scope of The Lunder Research Center. We're adopting them out to good homes at a steep discount. Everything must go!

**Genres available:**

- Art history
- History of the Americas (mostly U.S.)
- Coffee table
- Drawing/painting technique
- Plus a smattering of fiction, non-fiction, and other surprises!

The sale will be on the back portal of The Lunder Research Center—come on down the alley from Kit Carson Road. Parking available on the street and a half block east in the municipal lot on Kit Carson Road; free parking for those with disabled permits available on site.

**Saturday, August 3, 2024**

**10AM - 3:30PM**

**138 Kit Carson Road, Taos (back portal)**



## Curator's Exhibit Talk + Historic Site Open House - August 3

Join us this Saturday, August 3, for a Curator's Exhibition Talk and Historic Site Open House!

At 1PM, join CSHS Executive Director and Curator Davison Koenig in conversation with Jonathan Sobol of the Taos Abstract Artist Collective in the Dean Porter Gallery of the Lunder Research Center to discuss the collaborative exhibition *On Which It Rests*.

From 1:30 - 3:30PM, you can go next door to tour the historic homes and studios of E. I. Couse and J. H. Sharp, two of the founders of the Taos Society of Artists, and enjoy a delightful stroll through Virginia Couse's historic garden. Docents will be present in every room, providing in-depth knowledge of the E. I. Couse home and studio, the Kibbey Couse laboratory and machine shop, the Couse Mobile Machine Shop, the exhibition *J. H. Sharp: The Life and Work of an American Legend* in the 1915 Sharp Studio.

A special treat is the exhibition *Julius Rolshoven: A Cosmopolitan in Taos* in the 1830s Luna Family Chapel, which Sharp used as his first Taos studio.



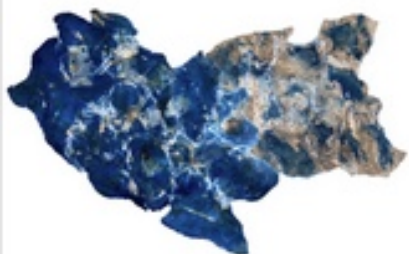
## Collaborative Exhibition with Taos Abstract Artist Collective: *On Which It Rests*

The Taos Abstract Artist Collective (TAAC) and CSHS have partnered on an exhibition at the Site titled *On Which It Rests* this summer at The Lunder Research Center. The show is jointly curated by Davison Packard Koenig, CSHS Executive Director and Curator, and Alexandra Terry, Curator of Contemporary Art at the New Mexico Museum of Art.

*On Which It Rests*, an exhibition that emphasizes the importance of place within the artistic process, features twenty-one abstract works from 21 artists, selected from a body of 247 submissions from artists across New Mexico.

Closing August 31, the show is available for viewing Tuesday through Saturday from 1PM to 5PM in the Dean Porter Gallery at The Lunder Research Center.

[Learn More Here](#)



**New Exhibition Coming This Fall:**

**VECINOS Y AMIGOS:**

# BERT GEER PHILLIPS

**AND HIS NEIGHBORS**

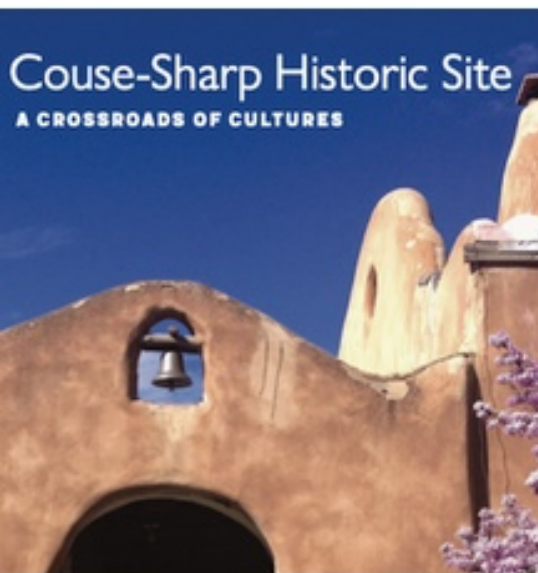
CSHS is thrilled to present an exhibition dedicated to the exploration of Taos Anglo artist Bert Geer Phillips's early 20th-century work with Hispano models. This exhibition brings to the foreground the role of the Barela and Casias families, who modeled for Bert Phillips in several of his well-known paintings of Hispano subjects: *Our Washerwoman's Family* (New Mexico Museum of Art), *El Santero* (Anschutz Collection, Denver), and *Lady, Please Buy One Chicken?* (Albuquerque Museum). **The exhibit will be on view from September 13, 2024 through February 28, 2025** in the Dean Porter Gallery at The Lunder Research Center.

How painters in the Taos Society of Artists met the models necessary for their work is not well known by the public and is rarely discussed in the literature, but it is becoming clear that this was a matter of word-of-mouth, often moving within family members and through a limited number of connected families. This was a balancing act on both sides, always transactional in weighing friendship and work-for-hire, stereotype in visual storytelling and the reality of daily life. In urban centers in the US and Europe where these artists studied, professional models were readily available, but the models in these paintings were members of the community, and many had relationships with the artists beyond modeling jobs. People willing to collaborate for reasonable compensation were an incentive for an artist's choice to live in Taos, and the images they helped to produce were a key to sales in distant markets, as essential as painting supplies or railroads to the livelihood of the artists.

Paintings of Hispanic subjects are rare in the Taos Society of Artists' production because they drew less attention on tour than the Native subjects heavily marketed by the tourism industry. Greater knowledge of those in the community who collaborated in this unique venture can broaden our understanding of the larger dynamic of Taos, the networks of relationships, the negotiation of cultural difference, the relative realism of paintings, and it gives significance to people who have long been anonymous. This exhibition affords Couse-Sharp Historic Site an opportunity to tell some stories found in documentary sources and for descendants of these families to participate with their own inherited oral histories.



[Click Here to  
Learn More](#)



## We have a new brochure!

Learn more about our national treasure by **requesting a free copy of our new brochure**—and some to give to your friends! Click the button to enter your information, or email us at [info@couse-sharp.org](mailto:info@couse-sharp.org)

Click Here to Request

## Our Statement of Purpose

*Through its archives, collections, and programming, the Couse-Sharp Historic Site preserves and interprets Taos' crossroads of cultures, promoting and facilitating research, education, and new perspectives on the Taos Society of Artists, early artists of Taos, and regional and Indigenous communities in relation to the greater story of the multicultural American West.*

Gold  
Transparency  
2024

Candid.

The Couse Foundation, which owns and operates Couse-Sharp Historic Site, has achieved the designation of **Gold Seal** from **GuideStar**, the world's largest source of information on nonprofits. More than 8 million website visitors per year and more than 200 partners use GuideStar data to grow support for nonprofits. To get the 2024 Gold Seal designation, the Foundation shared important organizational information with the public using our profile.

### Make a tax-deductible donation

The Couse Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; contributions are tax deductible. Donations can be made by credit card by clicking the SwipeSimple link to the right, by calling 575.751.0369 for personal service, or by mailing a check to PO Box 1436, Taos NM 87571. For more information about special-purpose and planned giving, see [couse-sharp.org/donate](https://couse-sharp.org/donate) or contact us at [giving@couse-sharp.org](mailto:giving@couse-sharp.org) 575.751.0369.

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