

MUSEUM PREVIEW

Society Scholarship

A weekend symposium at Scottsdale's Museum of the West highlights the Taos Society of Artists.



Co-curators Peter Hassrick and Tricia Loscher.



Bob Page, Charlie Sands and Myra Page in the Sands' Taos Trip area of the exhibition.

As part of its ongoing exhibit *Taos Society of Artists, Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West* will host a symposium on topics relating to the society on April 6 and 7. Moderated by Dr. Betsy Fahlman, professor of art history at Arizona State University and adjunct curator of American art at the Phoenix Art Museum, the weekend will include talks from Barbara Brandenburg Brenner, Virginia Couse Leavitt, Michael R. Grauer, Peter H. Hassrick, Tricia Loscher and Susan Sessions Rugh.

"There's been so much scholarship around the Taos Society that the symposium was just a natural fit for us," says Loscher, chief curator at *Western Spirit*. "With the symposium, much like with the paintings in the exhibition, we really saw this as a platform to bring in new and old scholarship."

Each day of the symposium will follow a similar format: first, a firsthand account by relatives of members of the Taos Society; then, an artist focus; and finally, a lecture that gives

Eanger Irving Couse's *Hopi Flute Dance* on view at the exhibition. Photo courtesy Loren Anderson Photography.



a broader perspective of Taos.

"We wanted to invite a broad range of scholars as well as relatives of members to get some firsthand accounts to bring the listeners into the time period, and then bring in some more general topics so people could learn about

Taos and the land and the people," says *Western Spirit* associate curator Rachel Pool. "The lectures from the two granddaughters, Barbara Brandenburg Brenner and Virginia Couse Leavitt, will have a big interest. They were both born in Taos, grew up with the



Ernest Martin Hennings (1886-1956), *Homeward Bound, 1933-1934*, oil on canvas. Courtesy Smithsonian American Art Museum. Transfer from the U.S. Department of Labor.



Michael R. Grauer



Peter H. Hassrick



Susan Sessions Rugh



Virginia Couse Leavitt



Barbara Brandenburg Brenner



Tricia Loscher

Society artists, and still live there." Loscher's lecture will cover the Sands family's 1924 trip to Taos. "It's a family pioneer story, and a local story. It gives a great, big picture idea of who these artists were and their patronage and their relationships," Loscher says. "I have the letters from artists' wives to the Sands family

as well as photos that have never been reproduced before. It's really new exciting research that grounds the artists in a down to earth level and brings a humanistic side to the exhibition."

The lectures will begin each day at 1 p.m., and *The Taos Society of Artists* exhibition will run through April 30. [®]

Taos Symposium

When: April 6-7, 2017, 1 p.m. daily

Where: *Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West*, 3830 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Information:
www.scottsdalemuseumwest.com