Taos Lights

An exhibition at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site highlights a variety of artwork.

Now open at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site in Taos, New Mexico, is La Luz de Taos, an exhibition that features nearly a dozen different mediums—from paintings and bronzes to weavings, pottery, jewelry, fashion and carvings—all from some of the top artists in the country.

The site, which has the homes and studios of painters Eanger Irving Couse and Joseph Henry Sharp, is celebrating the opening of its Lunder Research Center, an exhibition space that also has significant storage for archives, artwork and historical objects. The center is a repository for all things Taos, including much of its early art history as artists from all around the world discovered the Taos Pueblo and surrounding area in the early 20th century.

Thirty-nine artists will be featured in the exhibition, including a number of prominent Native American artists: glasswork by Ira Lujan, pottery by Susan Folwell and Russell Sanchez, photography by Cara...
Romero, jewelry by Pat Pruitt and Maria Samora, fashion by Patricia Michaels, bronze work by Tammy Garcia and paintings by Tony Abeyta. The exhibition opened in March and will be on view through May 21, when the works will be sold during a biennial gala. The fixed-price, by-draw sale, will directly benefit the site and its mission to preserve and celebrate the Taos Society of Artists and surrounding art community.

For her mixed media dress Inside the Taos Mountain, designer Patricia Michaels says she drew inspiration from the Taos Society of Artists and being a traditional woman from Taos Pueblo. “I took time periods of the past, bringing our continued traditions into the present day,” she says.

For Garcia’s work, the bronze Hummingbird, she says, “As a teenager I learned to make pottery from my mother, Linda Cain. She was born in Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico. It was there she taught me how to make coil-built pottery in the pueblo style. It is the historical pottery of the Southwest that continues to inspire me. On this bronze wall hanging sculpture, Hummingbird is surrounded by floral and abstract designs.”

4. Tony Abeyta (Navajo), Bear, oil on canvas, 5 x 7”
5. Maria Samora (Taos Pueblo), Lace Collection, bracelet, oxidized sterling silver with 18K gold dots
6. Pat Pruitt (Laguna Pueblo/Chiricahua Apache), Tangled Up in Blue, necklace and earrings, titanium, ed. 1 of 1