



**Jerry Jordan.** *The Taos Magic*, oil on board, 12 x 16"

## Taos Archives

Biennial gala and live auction benefits a new archives building at the Couse Foundation in Taos, New Mexico.

**F**ans of the Taos Society of Artists and its famous members will have a unique opportunity to participate in Taos history August 8 during the Couse Foundation's *Biennial Gala and Art Auction*.

The event, the fourth of its kind from the Couse Foundation, will feature a gala, a lecture, a live auction and a unique Paddles Up event that will allow guests to contribute to a new archives building now being planned by the foundation bearing the name of Eanger Irving Couse, one of the TSA's founding members.

"It's also quite exciting because it's the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Taos Society

of Artists, so the whole event is really going to be a lot of fun," says Cyndee Gustafson, executive assistant at the Couse Foundation. "And the works we have for the live auction are just wonderful, and very intriguing and interesting for how they relate to Taos."

Works in the auction include pieces by Dean Porter, Jerry Jordan, Walt Gonske, Ron Rencher, Roseta Santiago, Arturo Chávez, and Nicholas Coleman. Some of the artists are donating 100 percent of their auction proceeds to the archives project. The Paddles Up event, which takes place immediately after the live auction, allows guests to make additional cash

donations as the auctioneer counts from higher contribution levels to lower ones.

The proceeds from the event will go directly to the planning and development of a 3,600-square-foot archives building now in the early blueprint phase. Money raised will specifically be used to guide the project forward in Taos, where historical property is controlled more tightly than other kinds of property.

Carl Jones, president of the Couse Foundation, says the building will hold the archives for Couse and for TSA member Julius Rolshoven, and as many as five other TSA artists who can't be named publically until the

foundation cements further plans.

"At its high-water mark, the TSA had 12 full members, and there is a very good possibility that when the doors open we'll have archive materials relating to seven of the 12," says Jones. "The Couse archives by themselves are so extensive and important that they really caught the attention of other people who have substantial archives relating to one or more of the artists. For researchers, collectors, scholars, writers and students, it will no longer mean going coast to coast to see these materials. They will be able to come to one location."


Jones says the Couse materials include artifacts, letters, newspaper clippings, many authentic props used by the artist and more than 10,000 photographic negatives. The building they will be housed in will be designed to have extensive climate and environmental controls to maintain the integrity of the collection, and it will also be within throwing distance of the Couse home and studio. The project, still in the early phases, isn't expected to be finalized for several years.

In addition to the live auction and gala, held at the El Monte Sagrado in Taos, the foundation will host a TSA-themed lecture by Dean Porter at the Harwood Museum of Art on August 8 at 10 a.m. A special open house will take place the next day, August 9, at the Luna Chapel, where Joseph Henry Sharp made his studio, at the Couse-



Walt Gonske, *Holman Adobe*, oil on canvas, 16 x 20"

Sharp Historic Site. The open house will include a Rolshoven exhibition and tours of the property with Barbara Brenner, granddaughter of TSA member Oscar E. Berninghaus, and Virginia Couse-Leavitt, Couse's granddaughter.

"This is a very unique opportunity," Gustafson says. "It should be an excellent weekend." 

### Biennial Gala and Art Auction

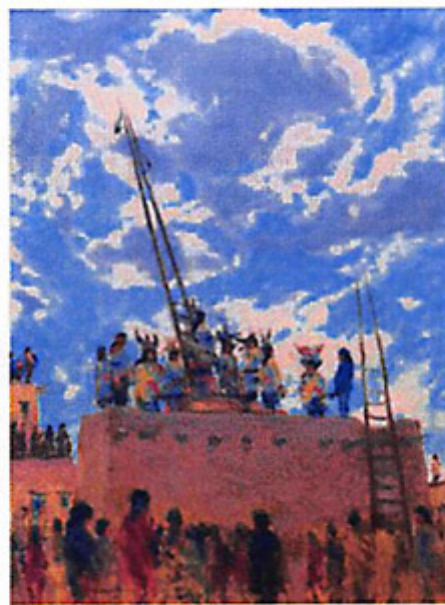
**When:** August 8, 2015, 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** El Monte Sagrado,  
317 Kit Carson Road, Taos, NM 87571

**Information:** (575) 751-0369,  
[www.couse-sharp.org/2015gala](http://www.couse-sharp.org/2015gala)



Dean Porter, *Winter Stream*, watercolor, 15 x 22"



Ron Rencher, *Corn Clan*, oil on linen, 24 x 18"