

# Historic Preservation

The third biannual Couse Foundation gala and art sale is set for August 31 at El Monte Sagrado in Taos, New Mexico.

**T**he Couse Foundation and Couse-Sharp Historic Site is dedicated to preserving the home studio of E.I. Couse as well as two studio buildings owned and used by Joseph Henry Sharp in Taos, New Mexico. A quick Internet search of Couse and Sharp will show just how important both artists were to the growth of the Taos, New Mexico, artistic development. Establishing the Taos Society of Artists, forming the Taos Six, and leading the way for visionaries like Robert Henri, Birger Sandzén, John Sloan, and Georgia O’Keeffe, these two men were instrumental in the New Mexican modernism movement.

The Couse Foundation’s biannual gala was originally established to obtain and preserve these historic sites. Having accomplished this goal with its 2011 gala, the Foundation is now furthering its goals through education and preservation.

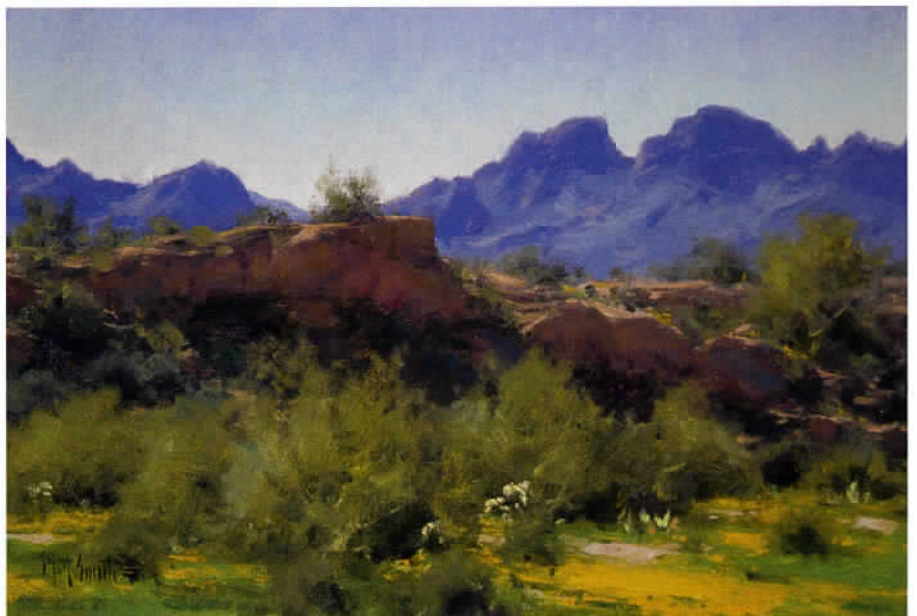
“This is the third gala that we’ve held and we have them every other year,” says Carl Jones, president of the Couse Foundation and the Couse-Sharp Historic Site. “We held the prior two galas for the principal purpose of raising the remaining necessary funds to acquire the [Couse] site to protect the site for generations to come. With our last gala we were able to accomplish that goal. Now the site has been acquired and is owned by and operated by the Couse Foundation, so the gala this year, and in going forward, will focus on our programs and educational aspects of our mission statement. That’s what distinguishes this year from previous gala years.”

The Couse home and studio are in situ, meaning that everything in the interiors of the site and the exterior grounds are as the artist had them and used them.

“The artist, during his lifetime, collected over 100 pieces of Native American pottery from the late 1800s and early 1900s,” adds Jones. “There are Santos that date to the late 1700s, probably two dozen pieces of Spanish Colonial furniture, many pieces of



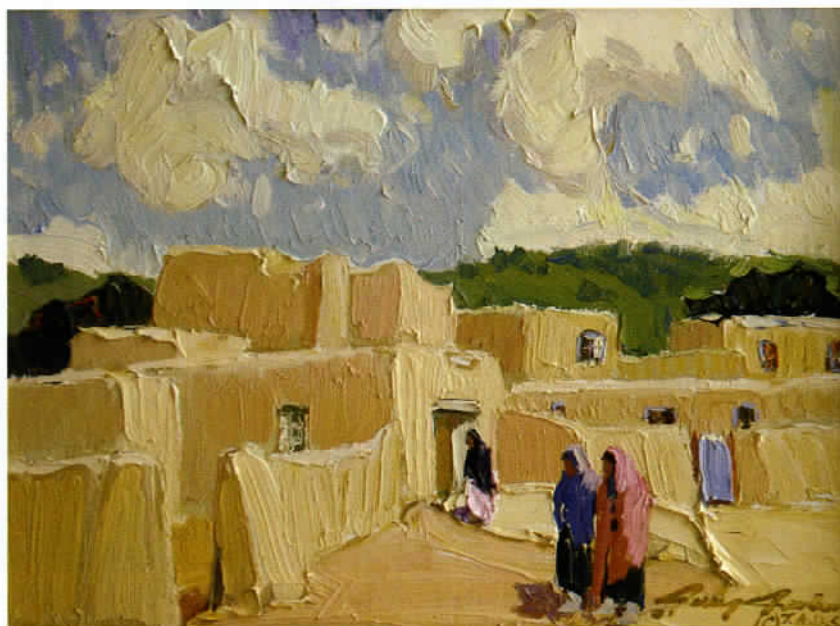
Ralph Oberg, *Nearing Zion*, oil on linen, 18 x 24"



Matt Smith, *Beeline Poppies*, oil, 11 x 16"



Logan Maxwell Hagege, *Puzzle of Clouds*, oil on panel, 10 x 8"



Jerry Jordan, *Summer's Palette*, oil, 12 x 16"

Native American regalia such as moccasins, and then about three dozen of the artist's paintings.

"The garden has been restored over the last three years to the way it was 100 years ago. It was known as the 'mother garden of Taos.' Seeds and cuttings from the garden wound up all over the valley...there is a large planting of Virginia Creeper and it is speculated that every sprig of Virginia Creeper that's in New Mexico came from the site here."

Available artwork at this year's auction comes from artists William Acheff, Clyde Aspevig, Arturo Chávez, Nicholas Coleman, Glenn Dean, Josh Elliott, Logan Maxwell Hagege, Sherrie McGraw, Ed Mell, Ralph Oberg, Howard Post, Bill Schenck, Curt Walters, and Skip Whitcomb, to name a few.

There will be a special guest speaker for the evening, Dr. Byron Price, director of the Charles M. Russell Center and the University of Oklahoma Press. Also on view during the gala will be a special exhibition of Sharp paintings in the historic Luna Chapel, which was Sharp's first painting studio in Taos.

The Couse Foundation Biannual Gala and Art Auction will be held August 31 at El Monte Sagrado hotel and resort. Tickets to the gala are \$150 each. For more information, visit [www.cousefoundation.org](http://www.cousefoundation.org).

### The Couse Foundation Biannual Gala & Art Auction

**When:** August 31

**Where:** El Monte Sagrado (The Sacred Mountain) hotel and resort, 317 Kit Carson Road, Taos, NM 87571

**Tickets:** \$150 each

**Information:** (575) 751-0369,  
[www.cousefoundation.org](http://www.cousefoundation.org)