



Welcome to the annual electronic newsletter from The Couse Foundation and 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: The best little shindig around



Couse-Sharp Historic Site's biennial gala and art sale has become the hottest little art shindig in the West: ***La Luz de Taos***, a significant exhibition and sale, plus the roster of entertaining and educational events attendees have come to know and love.

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If you want to participate in *La Luz de Taos* in person, you're in luck—as of the day this newsletter went out, there were still **weekend package tickets** (\$275) for sale at LaLuzdeTaos.org. The celebration kicks off Friday, June 14, with a historic site open house followed by a reception and art preview at The Lunder Research Center. Saturday morning, June 15, will feature a lecture by art scholar Dr. Marie Watkins. That evening will be the gala and art sale at El Monte Sagrado Resort.

The exhibition, open now through June 13 in The Lunder Research Center, features over 50 of the most exciting contemporary artists working in a variety of media, including painting, pottery, textiles, sculpture, jewelry, and glass. The show and participating artists can also be seen [online](#). Most **works will be sold** at fixed price via live draw at our June 15 gala celebration, with three sought-after pieces sold via secret-bid auction.

Those unable to make it to Taos can **purchase absentee ballots** so you can put your name in the draw to buy your favorites and help support the Site—see LaLuzdeTaos.org.

"The assembled artists represent a breadth of backgrounds, drawing inspiration from the vast landscape and culturally diverse peoples of Taos and the American West," said Davison Packard Koenig, Executive Director and Curator.

The exhibition is dedicated to the memory of artist Ed Mell, a good friend of the site who passed away this year.



[Click Here to Learn More](#)



Taos Abstract Artist Collective exhibition begins July 5



The Taos Abstract Artist Collective (TAAC) and CSHS are partnering with an exhibition at the Site called *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 features contemporary abstract artists working, or finding inspiration, in Taos Valley. In January, TAAC members participated in a survey on themes of historic and cultural influence, material choice, creative process, and place. At a roundtable discussion in Sharp's 1915 Studio, important themes surfaced: What is our responsibility to place? How do we internalize the influences of a place? How do we get out of our own conscious way and allow these processes to flow?

As a TAAC statement put it, "The Southwest offers a historical depth and breadth of continuous artistic production, particularly in Northern New Mexico, that is like no other place in the United States. Artists in the Taos region today owe a debt to the peoples that have come before, each with a distinct culture and visual language."

On Which it Rests is on view and on sale from **July 5 through August 30**. The gallery is open Tuesday–Saturday 1–5 p.m.

Exhibition open hours, historic site tours by appointment

The Dean Porter Gallery in The Lunder Research Center has regular open hours to see **seasonal exhibitions**. Normal hours are Tuesday–Saturday 1–5 p.m.; exceptions are national holidays and when we are installing a new exhibition. Check couse-sharp.org when planning your visit to us for details on our open hours schedule. There is no charge for admission but donations are gratefully accepted.

Couse-Sharp Historic Site offers donation-based **tours of the historic site** including home, studios, gardens, and machine shops by appointment, led by our amazing volunteer docents. Requests for tours, which last about two hours, can be made at couse-sharp.org/tour.

We continue our popular **Open Houses** this year on August 3 and October 5, with docents in each room to interpret and answer questions. Keep an eye on our [Events page](#) for more information about associated **special events** on these dates.



If you build it they will come: New Donations



E. I. Couse, *The Connoisseur*, 1909

oil on canvas, 30 x 36 in.

Gift of Lynn Wilson Krieg in
Memory of George W. and Linn M.
Perkins



Walter Ufer, *Indian Gardens (Grand Canyon)*, 1915

oil on canvas, 25 x 30 in.

Gift of Al and Carol-Ann Olson



J. H. Sharp, *Wood Roses*

oil on canvas, 20 x 24 in.

Gift of Stephanie Bennett-Smith

Over the past year, supporters have donated significant artworks and other materials for future generations to enjoy. We thank everyone who has thoughtfully and generously donated items to enhance our collections and support our programs.

- **Estate of Linn Wilson Krieg** | E. I. Couse, *The Connoisseur*
- **Al and Carol-Ann Olson** | Walter Ufer, *Grand Canyon*
- **Nancy Glasgow** | Couse, *Cleveland*; Emil Bistram drawing, *Untitled*
- **Johnny and Nella Wright** | J. H. Sharp Sharp, *Portrait of Mr. B.*
- **Stephanie Bennett-Smith** | Gene Kloss, *Buffalo Dancers at Fiesta*; Sharp, *Wood Roses*
- **Joy and Frank Purcell** | collection of 35 Kloss prints and related archival materials
- **Sanchez Family** | papers related to Gallery A and Kloss
- **Teresa Ebie** | papers related to Howard Cook and Barbara Latham
- **David and Lani Kyea** | papers related to Taos artists
- **Chrystina and James Parks** | more than 600 titles to the research library
- **Mike Olbin** | Couse drawing of Taos Pueblo; original Santa Fe Railway calendar tops and related materials
- **Ray Trotter of RB Ravens Gallery** | 18 boxes of books to the library
- **David and Sheila Young** | autographed letters signed by Kloss
- **Kevin Rowe and Irene Vlitos Rowe** | Julius Rolshoven pastel, *Red Hat #3*
- **Gregory Nelson 1993 Living Trust** | more than 400 titles to the library; Kloss watercolor landscape and 54 original drawings; Couse landscape; Rowena Meyers, *Taos Mother and Children*

SKETCHBOOK: Notes in Brief

Partnership with Taos Historic Museums | We are excited to share that we have partnered with Taos Historic Museums to bring their extensive archives into the Lunder Research Center on a long-term deposit that will allow this phenomenal trove of Taos history to be accessible to researchers at our facility.

New board members | At the February meeting of The Couse Foundation Board of Directors, two new directors were elected, bringing our current complement to 11. **Keith Ohnmels** and **Terry Winchell** both make Wyoming their home; as significant collectors and entrepreneurs, these longtime supporters of CSHS bring valuable skills and perspectives to our governance and we are grateful for their willingness to assist in governance.

Staff news | **Rachel Daley** has added another line to her title as Collections and now Donor Relations Manager. **Lucas McDaniel**, our Collections and Archives Specialist, has been awarded another master's degree, this time in Museum Studies from the University of New Mexico—with distinction. He has since transitioned to full-time staff. **Larry Lemm** has been promoted to Visitor Experience Coordinator. **Mary Bevilacqua** has agreed to continue as our Colby College Museum Fellow, grant-funded by Peter and Paula Lunder, through spring 2025. We welcome **Rozz Sanchez** and **Sawyer Sides**, two graduating seniors from Taos Academy high school, as our summer interns in partnership with the Taos Center for the Arts.

Our 2024 OU fellow | We are happy to welcome a new summer fellow from the University of Oklahoma (OU), **Abby Mikalauskas**. Abby is currently getting her masters in art history at OU, with a focus on Native American art history. She received bachelor's degrees in art history, anthropology, and French from Penn State in the Spring of 2023. Abby is working on her thesis, titled "Tiny but Mighty: Dakota umbilical amulets as a microcosm for land based epistemologies and cosmologies," in preparation for applying to PhD programs in the fall. This summer, Abby is excited to be involved with as many projects as possible and looks forward to learning all she can during her time here.

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 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, via [PayPal](#), 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/ways-to-give or contact us at giving@couse-sharp.org 575.751.0369.

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