

THE LEGACY

OCTOBER 2019 | Fall



What a year it has been

Since we only publish the *Legacy* newsletter once a year, Fall is a time to look back and see just how much we



have accomplished. Wow! What a year it has been: the Sharp exhibition on his Montana years, Couse photo exhibition, Gala and Art Auction weekend, summer open houses, tours, lectures, two books published, Virginia's move to Taos, and the hiring of our archivist, all in one year. Thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors and board of directors for their time, talents and generosity in making this possible.

This year has also been about planning and beginning the repurposing of the Mission Gallery. The Lunder Research Center will become the repository of documents, art created and artifacts collected by the 12 members of the Taos Society of Artists. We expect to start principal construction in early spring of 2020 with completion in time for the celebration of our 20th anniversary, biennial gala and TSA masterworks exhibition in June 2021.

We now embark on the capital campaign to raise the remaining funds to complete the research center and create a sustainable future for The Couse Foundation. Please read the article about the campaign and carefully consider how you would like to join us to fulfill our vision as the center for scholarship of E. I. Couse, J. H. Sharp and the TSA. Thank you to those who have helped raise over \$1.7 million toward our \$3 million goal to realize the potential of The Lunder Research Center.

Rich Rinehart, President
 The Couse Foundation

EXPANDING OUR VISION, ENSURING SUCCESS: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES

The Couse Foundation has embarked on an \$8 million campaign to tell our story and fulfill our vision for a sustainable future. This initiative will allow us to:

- Fund the purchase of the Mission Gallery building and the renovation of its 5,000 square feet into a state-of-the-art research center, interpretive exhibition gallery, research library, archival and collections storage, and curatorial space.
- Create Artist-in-Residence and Scholar-in-Residence programs and expand our seasonal Student Internships.
- Add key personnel to accomplish our ambitious vision, including archival, curatorial, educational, and administrative staff.
- Expand our dynamic programs, including exhibitions, tours, lectures, publications, and community events.
- Ensure the long-term operation and preservation of the Couse-Sharp Historic Site for new generations of art enthusiasts, collectors, scholars, students, and community members engaged in understanding the continuing influence of the Taos Society of Artists.



Interior demolition of the Mission Gallery building has been completed and final architectural drawings and planning are in progress in preparation for letting of construction contracts.

Together, we will build on the solid foundation that has been laid and fulfill the vision of an entire campus dedicated to the early Taos Art Colony and the Taos Society of Artists.

THE RESEARCH CENTER: Our initial focus is to raise \$3 million to acquire and renovate the facility, and then to operate the Center for at least five years after completion. A breakdown:



Images of the 12 Taos Society of Artists members enliven a front window of the research center building; the temporary display has proven popular with Taos passersby.

We are proud to have The Lunder Foundation of Portland, Maine, as our lead donor with a gift of \$600,000. We are also pleased that our faithful donors, board of directors, and friends have generously given \$1,100,000 to the campaign in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000 through the Spring of 2019.

THE ENDOWMENT: In addition, we intend to build a \$5 million endowment through pledges over the next 10 years, which when fully funded will provide \$250,000 annually for program expenses, including preservation of our historic facilities.

Gifts of any amount are graciously accepted; they can be lump sum or pledged over time, and made in cash or securities. Join us to fulfill our vision and make the Couse-Sharp Historic Site the center for scholarship of E. I. Couse, J. H. Sharp, and the Taos Society of Artists.

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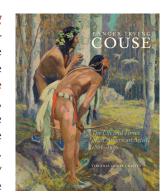
SKETCHBOOK: NOTES IN BRIEF

The Foundation is actively seeking archives related to members of the Taos Society of Artists to build on our incomparable Couse trove. "We've already received or are promised original materials and scholarly papers on several of the 12, but we would love for people to look in their attics and storerooms for relevant photos, letters, books, objects and ephemera," said Marissa Hendriks, archivist and collections manager. "And we certainly wouldn't mind some more original paintings!" To discuss any such donations, please contact Marissa at the Foundation offices ...



On June 15 **Dr. Marie Watkins presented "So me for the North and snow!": Joseph Henry Sharp's Montana** at the Harwood Museum of Art, sponsored by The Couse Foundation. It was a sold-out lecture and drew rave reviews on both scholarly content and entertainment value ...

On June 16, the site hosted the launch of Eanger Irving Couse: The Life and Times of an American Artist, 1866-1936. This definitive biography has been a labor of love by Couse's granddaughter, art historian Virginia Couse Leavitt. We also celebrated the July release of The Life and Art of Joseph Henry Sharp, edited by Peter Hassrick, and published by Whitney Western Art Museum at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in association with The Lunder Research Center at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site.



Both books are selling briskly; come by the Site to purchase or visit us online at couse-sharp.org/shop ...

Our Aug. 3 First Saturday event spotlig

Talley, one of our dedicated volunteed year faithfully impersonated I. H. Sha

Our Aug. 3 First Saturday event spotlighted Taos-Texas artist C. S. Talley, one of our dedicated volunteers, who has for the second year faithfully impersonated J. H. Sharp for open house visitors, painting at Sharp's re-created easel in the 1915 studio ...

Later in August we bid a sad but **fond farewell to our latest summer intern, Michelle Lanteri**. Michelle is Mellon Predoctoral Fellow and ABD (all but dissertation) in the Native American Art History PhD program at the University of Oklahoma. In addition to tasks including research, curation, and cataloging the contents of the Luna Chapel vault, she cheerfully helped with all things Gala. We wish her the best as she begins her new career and hope to see her in Taos again soon ...



Site Historian, Board Secretary and all-around Founder Virginia Couse Leavitt is now residing at CSHS full time. The board of directors, staff, volunteers, and the Taos community are thrilled to not have to say "goodbye until spring!" every November ...



Our Sept. 9, 2018 Volunteer Appreciation Party under a "big top" tent on the Site's lawn was a big hit with attendance at over 40, our largest appreciation event to date ...

On Oct. 16, 2018, a fifth grade class from Taos Pueblo Day School toured the Site with Executive Director Davison Koenig and Taos Pueblo artist Ryan Suazo, introducing the students and teachers to the Site, the Taos Society of Artists, and Pueblo models' contributions to their art. The kids had a great time and it was a promising start to the development of our artist-in-residence program.

In Memorium



We are saddened to report the Sept. 16 passing of Rena Rosequist, the owner of Taos's Mission Gallery, whose building will become The Lunder Research Center. Visit

couse-sharp.org/news for a link to a story about this longtime friend of the Foundation.

LEADERSHIP & STAFF ADDITIONS

The Couse Foundation welcomes a new board member in TIM NEWTON,

now of Santa Fe and recently of Brooklyn, NY. He was founder and curator of American Masters at the storied Salmagundi Club in New York City, which claimed



Couse, Sharp, and others of the Taos Society of Artists as members. Tim is chairman/CEO emeritus of Salmagundi and recently became the publisher of Western Art & Architecture Magazine.

We are also delighted to report that JEANNE TIMBER of Taos has accepted the role of treasurer of the Foundation. Jeanne, a graduate of The Wharton



School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, is a former corporate executive in both the US and Europe. She owns The UPS Store franchise in Taos and a property management company.

Our staff has expanded to four with the welcome addition of Administrative Assistant JACOB CISNEROS. Jake's background in art, photography, technology, construction, and office administration will help keep the organization moving forward on an even keel.

couse-sharp.org

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THE COUSE FOUNDATION DONORS, September 2018 – August 2019

Donations that include support of the capital campaign are designated with an asterisk; those that include an in-kind or artwork component have a double asterisk. This list includes donations made during the 2019 Gala except for sponsorships and art, acknowledged on page 4 (to the right). For space reasons we cannot acknowledge the many donations less than \$100 in this issue, as much as we appreciate them. Every penny counts!

\$250,000 OR MORE

The Lunder Foundation*

\$100,000 - \$250,000

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- *includes a donation in support of the capital campaign
- **includes an in-kind or artwork donation

THE FOUNDATION RAISES THE BAR WITH A Spectacular GALA WEEKEND

The Couse Foundation hosted a whirlwind weekend June 14–16 celebrating art and art scholarship, centered on our Sixth Biennial Gala and Art Auction. Thank you to all the sponsors, gala attendees, participating auction artists, board members, and volunteers that made our gala a fantastic success.



Demand for gala seats far outstripped expectations, and it sold out months in advance. Lucky ticket holders kicked off the celebration on June 14 with a reception and "hardhat tour" of the under-construction museum facility that includes The Lunder Research Center. Renowned scholars Dr. Dean Porter and Dr. Marie Watkins signed recent publications. Cowboy-style hardhats decorated by local artists were auctioned.

About 250 dinner guests and auction attendees enjoyed an elegant evening June 15 at El Monte Sagrado Resort in Taos, including cocktail reception, silent auction, live auction, dinner in a tent on the lawn, and music by the Chris Arellano Band.

Art for the Saturday auctions was carefully curated and included both historic and contemporary works. Alissa Ford, director of California and Western art for Heritage Auctions, returned as our auctioneer.

We received numerous compliments about the value of the entire weekend (see "Sketchbook: Notes in Brief" for more details about associated events). Our success was made possible by the tireless work of our staff, board and volunteers.



Above, auctioneer Alissa Ford and spotter Scott Hale coordinate Gala bidding on Cara Romero's photo. At left, Charles Sands in his John Farnsworth-painted hard hat. Below, from left: Sherrie McGraw, Tim Newton, Jennifer Bartlett; David Norden, Trisha Fong, Lara Brown, Shaun Richel, Josh Rose; Byron Price, Michael Grauer, Erland Bergen; Harry Pritchett, Janet Pritchett, Rich Rinehart, Dean Porter; Carol Ann Olson, Al Olson, Adele Ward. Photos courtesy of Tony Donaldson











DONATING ARTISTS

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LOOKING BACK, LAUNCHING FORWARD

As I sit here on the portal of the Couse home, I contemplate how much we have accomplished in a short time. In 2016 we embarked on restoring the 1915 Sharp Studio, bringing "Uncle Henry" back to the Site in 2017 with an impressive exhibition of his paintings, Native art and personal ephemera. A year ago

we purchased the Mission Gallery, containing the remnants of Sharp's former home, to be repurposed as a museum facility for Taos including The Lunder Research Center (LRC). We've produced or contributed to three books in three years, on Couse, Sharp and our pottery collection. We have built strong relationships with the Native community, especially Taos Pueblo, as well as other Taoseños and the larger art world.

Next summer we'll present a contemporary beadwork exhibition curated by Chelsea Herr, our former intern and PhD candidate in the University of Oklahoma Native American Art History program. Chelsea is coauthor with E. Jane Burns of our forthcoming publication *The Couse Collection of Native Beadwork*. Planning has begun for a 2021 Taos Society of Artists masterworks show as the inaugural exhibition in the LRC, fulfilling our ambition to bring the best art created in Taos back to Taos.

The Foundation is fortunate to have a robust Board of Directors and a growing, dedicated corps of volunteers. Three years ago our paid staff consisted of one part-timer. We now have four team members working hard to accomplish our exciting current and planned programs, as well as talented contractors helping us maintain our physical plant and communications.

We need your financial support more than ever to fulfill our mission of preserving and interpreting the incomparable Couse-Sharp Historic Site, and our collections and archives, "through education, collaboration, and scholarly engagement." We've achieved so much; help us be all we can be!

 Davison Packard Koenig, Executive Director and Curator Couse-Sharp Historic Site and The Couse Foundation

Every penny counts

Help preserve our national treasure

Financial support of the Couse-Sharp Historic Site is a gift not only to the present but to the future. Every donation to The Couse Foundation is greatly appreciated. The preservation of the site and our many valuable programs require the generosity of our many benefactors.

We are a Silver Seal organization!

The Couse Foundation has achieved the designation of Silver 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. In order to get the 2019 Silver Seal, the Foundation shared important information with the public using our profile at Guidestar.org.

Donate today!

The Couse Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization; contributions are tax deductible. Donations can be made by credit card via PayPal at couse-sharp. org/donate, by calling 575.751.0369 for personal service, or by mailing a check using the enclosed remittance envelope or 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 Foundation President Rich Rinehart.

COUSE PHOTO SHOW PROVIDES A WINDOW INTO TAOS' PAST



Taos Pueblo Portraiture: The Photographic Studies of E. I. Couse exhibition in The Couse-Sharp Historic Site's Luna Chapel

On July 6, the foundation opened its 2019 Luna Chapel exhibition *Taos Pueblo Portraiture: The Photographic Studies of E. I. Couse.* The featured prints are from 1906 to 1928 and most were taken as studies to use in developing the compositions for his paintings. The selection represents the quality of these images and provides insight into how the artist used them for his work.

"Couse's use of the camera was primarily utilitarian, and his interest in photography as an art form in its own right appears to have been minimal," said art historian Virginia Couse Leavitt, the recognized expert on her grandfather's work. "The results he obtained, however, were far from pedestrian. Because the artist's eye prevailed, most of his photos are compelling images."

The Couse family has maintained relationships with the descendants of the artist's favorite models, and the foundation strives to involve more. "The exhibition has served as a catalyst to connect with several relatives of the Taos artist models, and I am proud to say we had current and former Tribal Governors attend the opening in July," said Davison Koenig, executive director and curator.

The exhibition, which includes 27 contact prints made by Couse himself, six beautiful modern prints, and objects and archival material associated with the photos, will run through Nov. 2. Tours are by appointment Monday-Saturday.



SHARP EXHIBITION FEATURES FRESH PERSPECTIVES ON HIS MONTANA YEARS

J. H. Sharp painted extensively in Montana as well as here in Taos. Our 2019 Sharp focus is on the work of that period. "Some of the artworks and objects are publicly exhibited for the first time, others for the first time in many years," said Davison Koenig, executive director and curator.

The artist made his first trip to Montana in 1899. In 1903, he and his wife Addie moved to Crow Agency. With the help of US Indian Agent Samuel Reynolds, who became a close friend, they built a log cabin in 1905. Many of the objects and archival material in the exhibition have been generously loaned by Reynolds's descendants.

Besides finished paintings, the exhibition includes studies, sketches, photos taken by Sharp, Native beadwork, letters, his folding painting stool, and other items. Joseph Henry Sharp's Montana runs through Nov. 2, with tours by appointment Monday-Saturday.

THE MISSION of The Couse Foundation is to preserve and interpret the Couse-Sharp Historic Site, its buildings, grounds, collections, and the archives of the Taos Society of Artists, through education, collaboration and scholarly engagement.

THE VISION of The Couse Foundation is to be the center for scholarship of E.I. Couse and J.H. Sharp and the Taos Society of Artists.

THE COUSE FOUNDATION HISTORIC COUSE-SHARP

f thecousesharphistoricsite admin@couse-sharp.org couse-sharp.org PO Box 1436 146 Kit Carson Rd Taos, NM 87571 Affiliate Site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

HISTORIC ARTISTS HOMES CSTUDIOS