



Fine Arts Center  
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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Colorado Landscapes Significant gift of art given by Dusty and Kathy Loo to the Fine Arts Center**

**COLORADO SPRINGS** (July 17, 2007) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center is happy to announce that the Katherine and Dusty Loo Collection of Colorado landscapes will become a part of the Fine Arts Center's permanent collection.

Dusty Loo collected art all of his life. In 1986, he decided to focus his collection on Colorado landscapes, so he began looking for the best of all the artists who had painted in Colorado. By 2001, Loo's personal collection had grown substantially, but in December of that year pancreatic cancer claimed his life.

The Loo Family has had a long history of involvement with the Fine Arts Center. Kathy Loo, Dusty's wife, is the co-chair of the current FAC Renaissance Capital Campaign. Dusty had been the chair of the Board of Trustees and served on the Museum Committee for years. It was his wish that his Colorado landscapes be displayed in the newly expanded FAC galleries. In his will, Dusty selected 67 works to be given to the FAC.

"The Katherine and Dusty Loo Collection is one of the most comprehensive and significant collections of historic Colorado painting in existence," said Dr. Michael De Marsche, FAC President and CEO.

"We are very grateful to Kathy Loo for her personal contributions, and we will more formally acknowledge her gifts at the Masterpiece Gala on Aug. 3," said Dr. De Marsche. "And we are eternally grateful to Dusty for putting together this significant collection and allowing the FAC to provide its permanent home."

Twenty-six paintings will be on display during the Extremely Grand Opening, Aug. 2-5.

"This collection will be the envy of every museum in the Rocky Mountain West and it is only appropriate that these paintings hang in the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center ... many of the works depict local scenes that will be very familiar to our patrons and the residents of this city."

In fact, the very first piece in the collection was a painting of Cheyenne Mountain by Harvey Otis Young.

"I don't think he had any intention of starting a collection, at that point he just bought it because he thought Harvey Otis Young was a great painter and he loved Cheyenne Mountain," said Kathy Loo.

"He grew up in this area and you'll notice a lot of Cheyenne Mountain paintings in the collection."

Patrons will also notice how landscape painting developed from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

"Much 19<sup>th</sup> century painting was supposed to be a window onto the landscape," said Blake Milteer, FAC's Curator of 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century American Art. "There was an emphasis on the virtuosity of representing the landscape in a realistic way, but by the 20<sup>th</sup> century, you start to see more of the artists' personal vision."

One painting that seems to intersect at the landscape development crossroads is Helen Henderson Chain's *Mount of the Holy Cross* (c. 1879). The style of the iconic painting is realistic, but this glorious painting combines aspects of Chain's experience at the real Mount of the Holy Cross with invented ones; it's an idealized image.

Holy Cross is one of Kathy Loo's personal favorites.

"It's such a spectacular subject and, of course, it is one of the most popular and well-known," said Mrs. Loo.

"But the other reason is because I really admire Helen Chain as well. She and her husband had a bookstore in Denver and she painted and taught painting and spent a lot of time in the mountains. She spent a lot of time hiking and being out-of-doors. I admire all of the women who did that back in those days."

Both Kathy Loo and Helen Chain have hiked Pikes Peak and other Colorado mountains. In fact, in 2002, Kathy Loo was a part of a Mount Kilimanjaro expedition.

Other notable works in the collection on view during the Extremely Grand Opening are: *Victor*, George Biddle, 1937; *Sunset*, Robert Reid, circa 1921; and *Waterfall, Colorado*, Ernest Lawson, circa 1927.

Biddle taught at the FAC during the first Grand Opening in 1936. Reid's *Sunset* features the Broadmoor Hotel in the background; he was instrumental in the establishment of the Broadmoor Art Academy, the precursor to the Bemis School of Art. Lawson was the Director of Landscape Painting at the Broadmoor Art Academy and taught classes during the summers of 1927-1930.

The Fine Arts Center's permanent collection is sponsored by FAC Annual Sponsor: El Pomar Foundation, Timothy C. Hoiles, La Plata Investments, LLC, and La Casita Patio Café.

## **ABOUT THE FINE ARTS CENTER**

Founded in 1936, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre, and arts education center. The two-story, 48,000 square-foot expansion to be unveiled Aug. 2-5 during the *Extremely Grand Opening* was conceived and designed by award-winning architect and Colorado Springs native David Owen Tryba to complement the original 1936 John Gaw Meem building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit [www.csfineartscenter.org](http://www.csfineartscenter.org).