



Fine Arts Center
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FREE ADMISSION FOR MEMBERS 'Membership Stimulus Package' announced by new FAC CEO

COLORADO SPRINGS (Nov. 3, 2008) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center's new Chief Executive Officer, Sam Gappmayer, begins his tenure with the announcement that museum admission will now be free for all FAC members.

Dubbed the 'Membership Stimulus Package,' the new policy goes into effect immediately and will allow members to access every gallery in the museum for free and for unlimited return visits.

"With Thanksgiving right around the corner, we want to let our members know that we are thankful for their support," said Gappmayer. "I hope this will encourage non-members, who visit our galleries, to join the FAC, and members to visit their favorite exhibits as frequently as they like."

In addition to free museum admission each day – the FAC is closed on Mondays and major holidays – Fine Arts Center members also receive discounts on FAC Theatre Company tickets, Bemis School of Art classes, special event admission, and more.

"Membership at the Fine Arts Center is a great way to support the arts in our community," Gappmayer explains. "We want to thank our current members and encourage more people to get involved."

Museum admission for non-members is \$10 for adults; \$8.50 for seniors, students with ID, and youth 5-17. Kids four and under are always free. Non-member admission includes both first and second floor galleries. The Sculpture Garden, the FAC MODERN, and the Tactile Galleries are free and open to the public.

The Fine Arts Center will also open its doors to non-members on the third Saturday of each month for a **Public Free Day**. "We don't want anyone to be denied access to the Fine Arts Center based on the inability to pay an admission fee," said Gappmayer. The monthly Public Free Day kicks off on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Gappmayer, who has over 20 years experience as museum director, came to Colorado Springs from the Sun Valley Center for the Arts in Ketchum, Idaho, where he served as the Executive Director since 2002. He began at the FAC on Oct. 6. He is known for his innovative, community-oriented collaborations.

Current Exhibitions at the FAC include:

Place and Time: Reenactment Pageant Photographs by Edie Winograde

Photographs by Denver-based artist Edie Winograde capture reenactments of historical moments in American westward expansion, presented in their original locales. The reenactment pageants represent a unique window into the American psyche, combining historical facts, myths, and legends with theatrical devices.

Walt Kuhn: An Imaginary History of the West

This suite of 29 paintings by prominent 20th century artist Walt Kuhn depicts the artist's romanticized vision of the American West. Part of the Fine Arts Center's permanent collection, these colorful scenes present a vibrant combination of the West's grit and romance, its identity and stereotype, and its reality and nostalgia.

Designing Women of Postwar Britain: Their Art and the Modern Interior

A showcase of work by three women who were pivotal in an artistic revolution of textile design in 1950s England: Lucienne Day, Marian Mahler and Jacqueline Groag. Their geometric and abstract designs, inspired by Modern artists, are featured in furnishing fabrics, hand-towels, and dishware.

The Fine Arts Center has also two new exhibitions on display in the permanent collection galleries:

Seductive Gesture: Figurative Drawing from the American Collection

A new exhibition in the Marguerite and Otto Manley Gallery features figure drawings from the FAC's permanent collection. For many artists, drawing represents the essence of all other visual arts. This exhibit includes works by Edward Hopper, Richard Diebenkorn, Rico Lebrun, Edgar Britton and Boardman Robinson.

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Patroness of the Americas

This exhibition of a selection of works depicting Our Lady of Guadalupe in *retablos* (paintings on wood or tin) and *bultos* (carvings in the round) created by Hispanic artists from New Mexico. Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of Latin America's most popular religious and cultural images.

For more information, visit csfineartscenter.org.