

## Press Release

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### **Fine Arts Center Welcomes New Curator**

Colorado Springs, CO (January 4, 2007)...The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center has appointed Tariana Navas-Nieves as Curator of Hispanic and Native American Art. Navas-Nieves brings over fifteen years of curatorial experience in both Hispanic and Native American Art to the FAC. In her tenure at the Museo de las Américas in Denver, Tariana served as the Curator of Collections of Latin American art from pre-Columbian times to the present. She has also served as a consultant to the Denver Art Museum's New World Department, and as curator for a number of major private collections of American Indian, Latin American, and American art in Denver, California, and Puerto Rico.



Tariana Navas-Nieves has a Master of Arts in Art History, specializing in Latin American Art. She has curated over 20 exhibitions, presented numerous public lectures, and has taught at the university level. As Curator of Hispanic and Native American Art, her responsibilities will include collection and exhibition development and management, as well as heading exhibitions, loans, and educational efforts for the Native American and Hispanic collections. She will also train Fine Arts Center docents and conduct public lectures related to Taylor Museum activities. Additionally, Navas-Nieves will play an integral role in the Fine Arts Center's continuing search for a Curator of 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Art.

“The opportunity to join the Fine Arts Center at this moment of dramatic growth is very exciting,” expressed Navas-Nieves. She envisions in her new position “an opportunity to reexamine the Fine Arts Center’s permanent collection with a global perspective and display it in aesthetically pleasing vignettes that will show the strength and range of the collection while connecting art in non-traditional and dynamic ways.”

Through previous experience with the Taylor Museum collection, as well as private collections of American, Native American and Hispanic Art, Navas-Nieves comes to the Fine Arts Center with considerable knowledge of its collections. “The importance placed on modern and contemporary art of the Americas was a key factor in my decision to join the FAC. I am committed to actively augmenting the collection with new acquisitions, especially in the area of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American Indian and Latin American art and photography.” She began on December 18<sup>th</sup> and has hit the ground running in collections care, working on upcoming exhibitions, and planning for the museum’s grand reopening on August 4, 2007.

With well over 10,000 objects in its collection, the Taylor Museum holds one of the strongest Native American and Hispanic collections in the United States, containing diverse artistic Latin American works from the 19<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> century such as Santos from the Southwestern United States and the Caribbean, Mexican sculptures and works on paper, and Guatemalan textiles, among others. The Native American collection comprises southwestern Native American artifacts and jewelry, including Navajo weavings and Pueblo pottery. In addition, the Taylor Museum has one of the largest collections of Dale Chihuly art in North America.

Founded in 1936, the Fine Arts Center is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre, and arts education center. It is currently embarking on a multi-million dollar building initiative, and when new construction is complete, the building will expand from 88,388 to 132,286 gross square feet – a total expansion of 48,398 gross square feet. The renovated and expanded Fine Arts Center opens to the public on August 4, 2007 with a grand reopening celebration featuring a blockbuster traveling exhibition, special guests and events. To learn more, visit [www.csfineartscenter.org](http://www.csfineartscenter.org).

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