



COLORADO SPRINGS
Fine Arts Center
at COLORADO COLLEGE

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Media Advisory
For Immediate Release

***Gifts That Shape Us* Celebrates the Generosity Behind the Fine Arts Center Museum Collection**

Colorado Springs, Colo.—March 9, 2026—The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College is celebrating its historic permanent collection by hosting key works of art in the exhibition, [*Gifts That Shape Us*](#), opening March 18, 2026, and running through March 13, 2027, in the FAC Museum’s Lane East Gallery.

For nearly 90 years, gifts of art have shaped the FAC Museum and the permanent collection it stewards. More than half of the museum’s collection has been built through the generosity of artists, collectors, and community members whose gifts of artwork and acquisition funds have helped define the museum’s vision and scope. *Gifts That Shape Us* spotlights this enduring legacy of philanthropy.

A highlight of the exhibition will be John Singer Sargent’s [*Portrait of Miss Elsie Palmer \(Lady in White\)*](#). Elegant, luminous, and timeless, this iconic work demonstrates how a single gift can elevate an entire collection and continues to captivate visitors today.

Other early gifts helped establish the museum’s identity, including [*Alice Bemis Taylor’s*](#) foundational collection of Southwestern art, which rooted the Fine Arts Center in the artistic traditions of the region. Meredith Sage Hare’s donation of American modernist paintings and sculptures expanded the museum’s reach, introducing bold and innovative works that reflected the avant-garde spirit of their time.

In the decades since, additional gifts have continued to broaden the museum’s collecting scope while reinforcing its dual commitment to art of the Southwest and emerging artistic voices. *Gifts That Shape Us* brings together works from across the museum’s nearly 90-year history—from foundational donations to recent acquisitions—showcasing how generations of generosity have shaped the collection and continue to influence its future.

Support for the exhibition is provided by the Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation, Colorado Creative Industries, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Be sure to check out our [Digital Guide](#) to get an up close and personal look at the *Gifts That Shape Us* and more right from your smart phone.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) began with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy in 1919. A museum, performing arts theatre, and community art school, the FAC is a pillar in the cultural community of the Rocky Mountain West providing innovative, educational, and multi-disciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality. For more information about the FAC, visit fac.coloradocollege.edu.

Land Acknowledgement

Colorado College occupies the ancestral homelands and traditional territory of the Ute People, as well as Apache, Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowa, and Pawnee Nations. All were forcibly removed to reservations in Southwest Colorado, Utah, and Oklahoma. We affirm that early United States national policy was designed to break down Indigenous communities, destroy cultural identities, and outlaw traditional religious practices to clear a path for non-Indigenous settlement. Despite that, Indigenous Peoples are still here today, resilient, thriving, and vibrant citizens or descendants of 574 US federally-recognized sovereign tribal nations plus those from north and south of the US borders and beyond. We encourage all people to learn the names and the complex histories of original people of the land you are on and continuously seek ways to act in solidarity with them today and always.

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