

THE ARTS & CRAFTS MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLORADO ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

www.coloarts-crafts.org

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THE 13TH ANNUAL
INITIATIVES IN
ART AND CULTURE
CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 21-25, 2011

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opportunities available.**

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"AT THE FRONTIER'S EDGE" CELEBRATES PIONEERING SPIRIT OF WEST

BY LISA KOENIGSBERG AND CYNTHIA SHAW MCLAUGHLIN

By now you all should have heard that something bigger than tumbleweed is blowing into Colorado this fall – the 13th Annual Initiatives in Art and Culture Conference. Slated for Wednesday through Sunday, September 21-25, "At the Frontier's Edge" will explore the Arts and Crafts movement in Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs and the Foothills through a series of authoritative lectures, panel discussions, collections visits, studio demonstrations, book signings, tours of historic sites and receptions at private homes.

"At the Frontier's Edge" challenges the commonly held perception that the American frontier was closed by the end of the 19th century. Instead, as stated by Frederick Jackson Turner, the West's pioneering spirit created freedom "by breaking the bonds of custom, offering new experiences, and calling out new institutions and activities" – enabling new ground to be broken both literally and figuratively well into the 1920s and beyond.

While identifying factors that shaped this regional expression – among them the rail lines – the symposium will explore ongoing manifestations and expressions of the Arts and Crafts movement (as seen in the work of contemporary jeweler Todd Reed, for example) and consider whether this pioneering spirit continues to affect the modern-day design world.

With a loyal cadre of attendees from all over the country converging in downtown Denver (with many staying at the Brown Palace Hotel), the program will begin Wednesday afternoon at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (gothic revival, built 1907 by Ralph Adams Cram), with opening remarks by Lisa Koenigsberg, IAC's president and founder. After the success of her inaugural Arts & Crafts symposium in Manhattan in 1999, Lisa – a lifelong New Yorker educated at Johns Hopkins and Yale – took her program "on the road" (other cities visited to date have included Pasadena,



Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, St. Louis, Buffalo, Minneapolis, San Diego, Cincinnati, Seattle and New York). Tom Noel, professor of History at the University of Colorado and the author of more than 40 books, and Cheryl Robertson, a Boston-based independent scholar, curator and museum consultant, will also be on the evening agenda, speaking respectively on “Considering the Context: Colorado and the Region” and “Arts and Crafts on the Frontier: Historical Precedents, Regional Identity and Home(s) on the Range”.



Thursday’s activities will start at the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art. After a welcome from founder, director and curator Hugh Grant, Liam O’Neill (chairman and founder of the Archibald Knox Society on the Isle of Man and here on a whirlwind tour of the U.S.) will speak on Knox’s life and works and Robert Rust (an Arts & Crafts design consultant, appraiser, author and

CACS board member) will talk about “Colorado Metalworkers and Metalworking during the Arts and Crafts Period”. A guided tour of the Museum’s display of over 3,300 works – ranging from Arts & Crafts, Art Nouveau, Glasgow Style, Wiener Werkstätte, De Stijl, Bauhaus and Art Deco to Modern and Pop Art from the 1860s -1980 – will follow.

In the early afternoon, buses will “head for the hills”, passing through Red Rocks (a Denver Mountain Park) en route to the Boettcher Mansion (Charles Boettcher’s former “Lorraine Lodge”, built 1917 by Fisher & Fisher and now a National Register site adapted as a special events venue). Over lunch inside the Fireside Room, participants will hear a lecture by Richard Guy Wilson (Commonwealth Professor of Architectural History, University of Virginia) on “Wilderness and the Rustic Arts & Crafts”. The group will then visit Hiwan Homestead (a log structure built 1890-1930 and also a National Register site) in Evergreen before a sojourn to Upper Bear Creek to tour the Anne Evans Cabin and “Hiawatha” (both private residences). At the final destination, Jim and Trudy Chiddix will host an evening reception with tours of their home, studio and garden as well as a book signing.

The Arts & Crafts Messenger, the newsletter of the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, is published quarterly for the society’s members as part of their membership contribution. Send comments to julie.leidel@gmail.com All articles are © 2011 the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, with rights reverting to the authors after publication.

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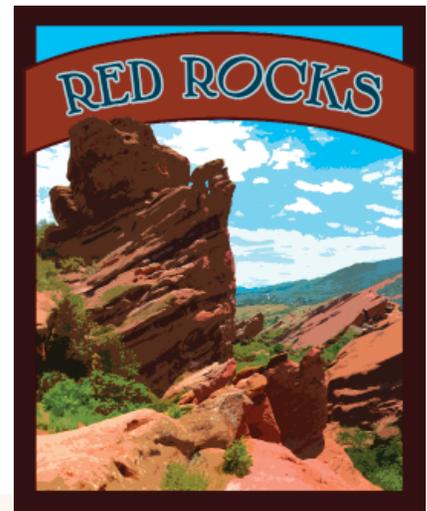
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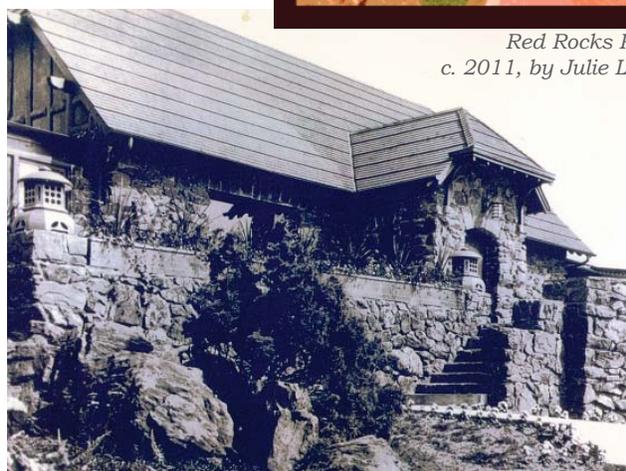
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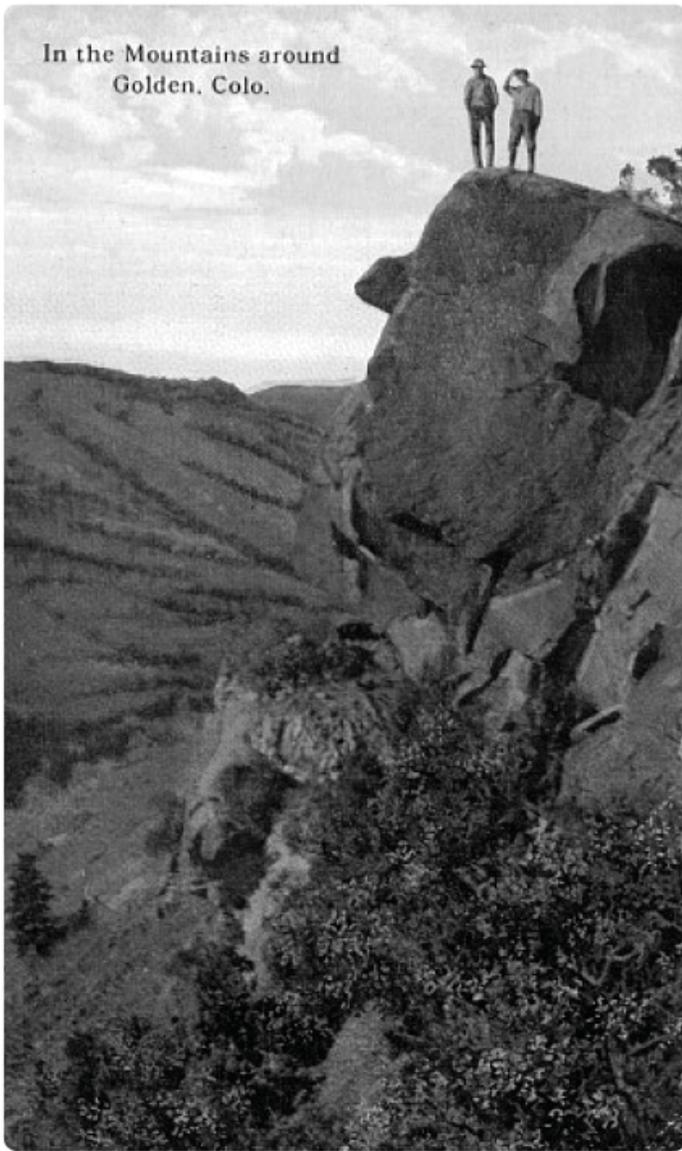
All correspondence concerning the society or membership should be sent to Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, 900 Colorow Road, Golden, CO 80401
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*Red Rocks Poster
c. 2011, by Julie Leidel.*



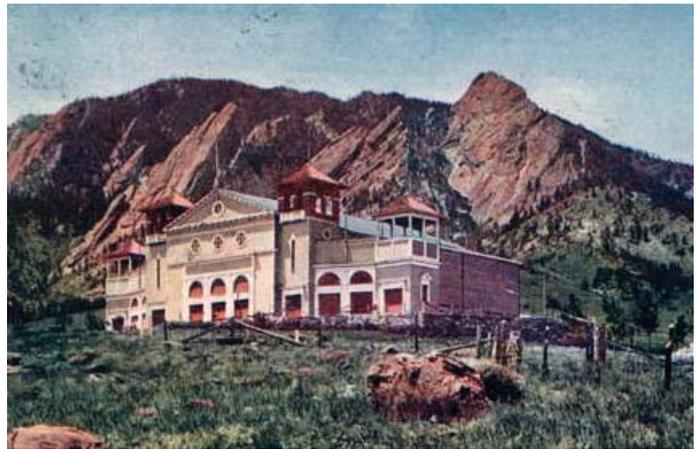
Lorraine Lodge (now Boettcher Mansion), c. 1920, by Fisher & Fisher. Photo Courtesy of Colorado State Historical Society.



Vintage Colorado postcard.

and Intersections with the Arts & Crafts Movement” and Thomas Brent Smith (Director of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art) will present “Undeniably Western: Thoughts on American Painters of the Southwest, and Arts & Crafts Ideology”. Hugh Grant (adjunct curator of the DAM’s Kirkland Collection) will lecture on “Decorative Arts c. 1860-1932 at Kirkland Museum” and Todd Reed (Boulder jeweler and metalsmith) will address “21st Century Heirlooms: Bold Designs, Precious Materials and Ethical Sourcing”.

After an optional boxed lunch and tours of the collections, buses will leave for Boulder, where attendees will see Chautauqua’s National Historic Landmark District before arriving at the Pearl Street Mall, an early prototype for downtown urban renewal projects. The evening activities will encompass a “farm-to-table” dinner and hands-on demonstrations at Todd Reed’s studio.



Vintage postcard of Colorado Chautauqua Auditorium, Boulder, CO

DENVER ART MUSEUM

The Denver Art Museum (DAM) will host most of Friday’s sessions. Established in 1893, the Denver Artists Club by 1918 had become DAM, which by 1948 had purchased a building on Acoma and 14th Street with later additions in 1954 (Gio Ponti’s South Wing), 1971 (James Sudler’s North Building) and 2006 (Daniel Liebeskind’s/ Davis Partnership Architects’ controversial Frederic C. Hamilton Building). After a welcome from Christoph Heinrich (DAM’s Frederick and Jan Mayer Director), Nancy Blomberg (Senior Curator and head of the Native Arts Department) will deliver “The Hand and Eye of the Artist: Celebrating the Arts of Native America at the Denver Art Museum



Todd Reed, Cuff, 18kt. gold, silver, raw diamonds (14.6ct.), white brilliant cut diamonds(.248ctw.), autumn brilliant cut diamonds (.96ctw).. Photo: courtesy, Todd Reed.



The Rookwood Pottery Company, Artus Van Briggie, Vase, 1897. White body, thrown. Decorated with large gull in flight over waves. All over ground of abstracted sea and sky. Sea green glaze line. 11 x 7 1/4 in. (27.9 x 18.4 cm). Cincinnati Art Museum, Gift of Walter E. Schott, Margaret C. Schott, Charles M. Williams and Lawrence H. Kyte, 1952.

On Saturday, there will be an all-day field trip down to Colorado Springs, with “behind-the-scenes” tours of the Pioneers Museum (the local and regional history museum located in the old El Paso County Courthouse, built in 1903); the Van Briggie Memorial Art Pottery (built 1908 by Nicholas van den Arend, and now part of Colorado College, where the morning lectures will take place), and the Pottery’s contemporary studio. An optional boxed lunch will again be available.

The afternoon agenda will begin with Anita Ellis, Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Cincinnati Museum and a ceramics authority, speaking on “Van Briggie before Colorado Springs”. There will then be a panel discussion focusing on Van Briggie, another local potter (William Long) and other relevant topics. Among participants are noted experts Kathryn Davis Gardner (career museum curator), Laura Fry (curatorial assistant at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming), and Scott Nelson (collector).



Van Briggie pottery tiles



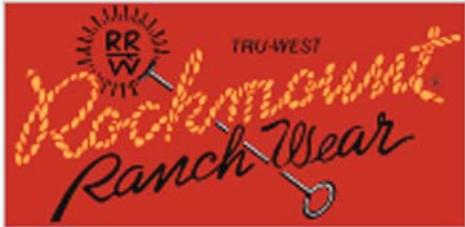
Van Briggie Pottery, c. 1908, by Nicholaas van den Arend



Buffalo Bill seated in a striking chair made from Texas steer horns and goat skin, in front of his tent on the Wild West show backlot, London, England, 1892. Photo, courtesy, Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

On the way back to Denver, the group will visit La Foret, the 1928 summer home of Alice Bemis Taylor, a prominent local philanthropist and one of the benefactresses of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Located in the Black Forest, the property is now used as a conference and retreat center. Saturday night will end feature a special reception in LoDo (details to be announced soon)!

Sunday morning will encompass a downtown walking tour led by local historians Tom Noel and Francis Pierce, with visits to Rockmount's Ranch Wear, the Tattered Cover Bookstore and Union Station. While more than a dozen CACS members have already signed up for the conference (to Lisa's delight), you can still register (at individual day or full conference rates) – and get more details on individual talks and the overall itinerary by visiting the IAC website at: www.artinitiatives.com. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to remember the many reasons we all live in – and love – Colorado! 🍷



Rockmount Ranch Wear tag.



Denver's Union Station in the early 1900s



Vintage postcard of La Foret Camps, Black Forest, Colorado Springs, CO

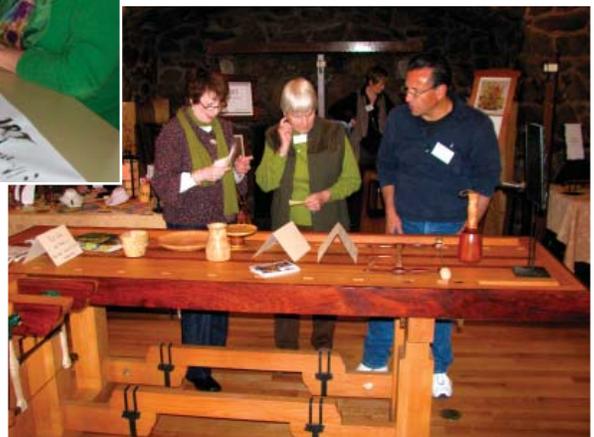
SECOND ANNUAL “GATHERING OF THE GUILDS” BUILDS MOMENTUM AND POPULARITY

BY BILL STRATHEARN

The 2nd Annual “Gathering of the Guilds” was held May 1, 2011 at the Boettcher Mansion. Building on the success of last year’s inaugural event, nearly 300 folks attended, including 168 non-guild paying individuals--a dramatic increase in just one year! Members from 14 different guilds participated, with their booth spaces “anchored” by Leon Loughridge of Dry Creek Art Press (whom, as you will recall, was one of the featured speakers on woodblock print-making at our last Winter Symposium), and our own board member, Julie Leidel of The Bungalow Craft. The steady turnout throughout the day was made even more exciting when a reporter from the Wall Street Journal showed up to write an article on one of the weavers who uses dog hair for fibers (the story appeared in the paper several weeks later. Search online.wsj.com, keywords “dog hair weaving.”)

Continuing demonstrations by the Colorado Calligraphers Guild, Castle Clay Artists and the Colorado Metalsmithing Association held everyone’s attention all day. Certainly the center piece was an enormous workbench displayed by the Red Rocks School of Fine Woodworking.

Plans are currently underway for the 3rd Annual “Gathering of the Guilds” which is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 29th. Based on many very positive comments from this year’s participants, it appears we can look forward to seeing most of them next year. In addition, two guilds in bead making and stained glass have expressed an interest in attending in 2012. ☺



Initiatives

in art and culture

At Frontier's Edge: The Arts & Crafts Movement in Denver and Environs

The 13th Annual Arts & Crafts Conference

Denver, Colorado
September 21–25, 2011

Join us for lectures by leading authorities, private site tours and receptions, museum visits, and more.

Hosted by the Boettcher Mansion, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, Denver Art Museum, the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art, jeweler Todd Reed, and Van Briggle Memorial Pottery, with the participation of the Colorado Arts and Crafts Society (as of 3/22/2011).

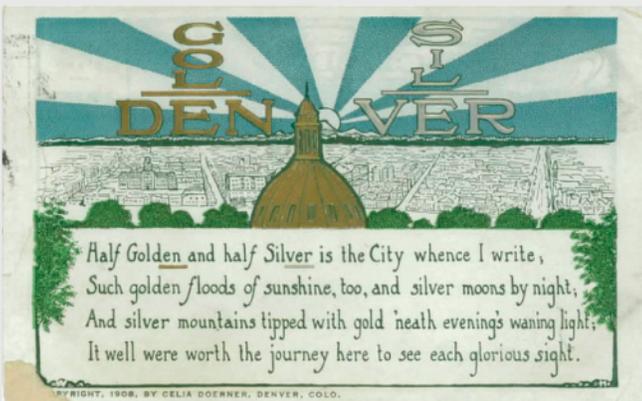


Van Briggle Pottery Lamp, 1903, by Anne Van Briggle (1868–1929); shade probably by R. Ito, early 1904. Promised gift to Kirkland Museum of Pam McClary and Robert Rust. Photo by David Foxhoven.

Register at: www.acteva.com/go/denver

For more information, contact:
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Upcoming National Events

August:

Arts & Crafts Summer Camp at Craftsman Farms; Morris Plains, NJ. August 1-5. www.stickleymuseum.org

Historic Seattle's Guided Tour of First Hill; Seattle, WA. August 2. www.historicseattle.org

Old Pasadena Walking Tour; Pasadena, CA. August 6. www.pasadenaheritage.org

SF Modernism 20th Century Design Show: Mission to Modern; San Francisco, CA. August 13-14. sfmodernism.com

Golden Fine Arts Festival; Golden, CO. August 20-21. Julie Leidel of The Bungalow Craft will be exhibiting. www.goldenfineartsfestival.org

16th Annual Wisconsin Pottery Association Show & Sale; Madison, WI. August 27. www.wisconsinpottery.org

Arts & Crafts Moments: Simplicity In Design; Nashville, IN. Closes March 30, 2012. www.indianamuseum.org/sites/tcst.html

Gustav Stickley and the American Arts & Crafts Movement; San Diego, CA. Closes September 11. www.sdmart.org

September:

2011 American Pottery Festival; Minneapolis, MN. September 9-11. www.northernclaycenter.org

Handmade Tile Association's 10th Annual Tile Festival; Minneapolis, MN. September 17. www.handmadetileassociation.org

Frank Lloyd Wright Conference: Art, Craft, Modernism and Frank Lloyd Wright on the East Coast"; Philadelphia, PA. September 21-25. www.savewright.org

14th Annual Historic Seattle Bungalow Fair; Seattle, WA. September 24-25. www.historicseattle.org

12th Annual Twin Cities Arts & Crafts Show and Sale; St. Paul, MN. September 24-25. www.twincitiesartsandcraftsshow.com

3rd Annual Columbus Pottery Show & Auction; Columbus, OH. September 30-October 2. www.columbuspottery.com

Arts & Crafts Moments: Simplicity In Design; Nashville, IN. Closes March 30, 2012. indianamuseum.org/sites/tcst.html

Gustav Stickley and the American Arts & Crafts Movement; San Diego, CA. Closes September 11. www.sdmart.org

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If you can't remember when you wrote a check to CACS for your membership, you probably haven't paid in a while. Please stay with us by sending in your annual dues to CACS, c/o Boettcher Mansion, 900 Colorow Road, Golden, CO 80401. Thank you for your support!



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