



ON
&
OFF
THE
WALL

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

A MEMBER BENEFIT OF THE
DENVER
art
MUSEUM

On the Cover

BLACK AND WHITE
AMOAKO BOAFO

Personal style and fashion are recurring themes in Amoako Boafo's work. As he states in the catalog that accompanies the exhibition, "I like fashion, and I think clothes are elements that also add a bit of confidence, and I wanted my characters to have that kind of confidence." His titles often direct our attention to a specific garment worn by his subjects. In this painting, the woman's checkered jacket is both an emblem of her tastes and a means of cloaking her body from unwanted gazes.

The Member Preview for *Amoako Boafo: Soul of Black Folks* is October 7. Tickets go on sale in September. Learn more about the exhibition and the artist on page 4.



Amoako Boafo, *Black and White*, 2018. Oil on paper; 39 3/8 x 27 1/2 inches. Private collection, courtesy of Roberts Projects, Los Angeles. © Amoako Boafo. Image courtesy Roberts Projects, Los Angeles and Private Collection, photo: Robert Wedemeyer.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Every day | 10 am–5 pm

The museum is open 10 am–9 pm on Tuesdays.

The museum will be open until 10 pm for *Untitled: Artist Takeover* on Friday, October 27.

Visit the Plan Your Visit page on our website for directions, parking, ticketing information, and more.

denverartmuseum.org/visit

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To renew your membership or learn about member events, please visit our website:

denverartmuseum.org/membership



CONTACT US

Membership Office 720-913-0130
membership@denverartmuseum.org

Adult Programs 720-913-0130
Event Rental 720-913-0148
Family & Kids Programs 720-913-0130
Información en español 720-913-0169
The Shop 720-865-4488
The Ponti restaurant 720-913-2761
School & Teacher Programs 720-913-0088
Tickets & Reservations 720-913-0130

Access Programs
access@denverartmuseum.org
Community Programs
jfutrell@denverartmuseum.org
Volunteer Services
jdodson@denverartmuseum.org

ISSUE #203

© Denver Art Museum 2023

On & Off the Wall is published six times a year for members of the Denver Art Museum as a benefit of membership.

Editor: Carleen Brice
Graphic Designer: Jenn Goodrich
Contributors: Rose Beetem, Zoe Diaz-McLeese, Sheri DiFinì, Christoph Heinrich, JR (Jennifer R.) Henneman, Sarah Melching, Eric Paddock, Andy Sinclair

Photography: Unless otherwise noted, photos are by Christina Jackson, Bruce Fernandez, or Eric Stephenson.

Send change of address with mailing label six weeks in advance to:

Membership Office
Denver Art Museum
100 W. 14th Avenue Pkwy.
Denver, CO 80204-2788

Denver Art Museum programs are funded in large part by the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).



Free Days at the DAM are made possible by Your 6 Front Range Toyota Stores and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).





2

Director's Column

Learn about art conservation at the DAM.



4

Amoako Boafo: Soul of Black Folks

The Ghanaian artist's debut solo museum exhibition comes to Denver in October.



7

Plan Your Estate

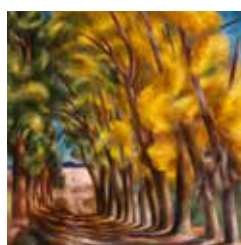
National Estate Planning Month is the perfect time to think about a future contribution to the DAM.



8

Programs and Events

Meet artists, enjoy members-only tours, explore Native arts and culture at the Friendship Powwow, and more!



INSERT

Get your member-exclusive poster of a lovely autumnal scene now on view in the western American art galleries.



10

Art on View

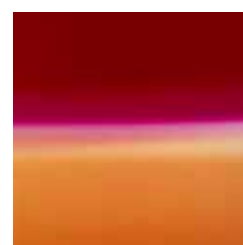
Make plans for your fall visits with this list of exhibitions.



12

The Russells in Denver, 1921

One hundred years later, the DAM takes a look at Charles Russell's exhibition at The Brown Palace.



14

DAM Uncrated

Longtime supporters Joyce and Ted Strauss left over 100 photographs to the DAM in their will.



16

The Chronicles of Conservation

Since 1991, the DAM has been a leader in the field.

Conserving Art for Future Generations

Much like you care for heirlooms and special treasures in your home, museums must care for the artworks in their collections. The Denver Art Museum is lucky to have a talented team of trained professionals dedicated to preserving the more than 70,000 works in our collection so they can last for generations to come. The Conservation and Technical Studies department, led by Sarah Melching, Silber Director of Conservation, includes conservators with specialties in works of art on paper, photographs, paintings, textiles, archaeological, ethnographic, and traditional objects, and modern and contemporary art. Because the field of conservation is about more than just restoring how objects look, these experts have advanced training in art history, chemistry, and conservation techniques and are guided by a code of ethics to protect the integrity of works of art.

New lab

When we reimagined the campus, we added an expanded laboratory on the lower level of the Martin Building. The new laboratory, which opened in 2021 and is just one of three spaces dedicated to conservation activities at the museum, features north-facing windows offering indirect, natural light—an essential tool in conservation treatment—that also enables visitors to witness conservation work as it happens from the courtyard in front.

Future of conservation

Sarah and her team have been working with a Conservation Advisory Committee since 2006 to advise and elevate the role of conservation in the institution. The advisory committee, which includes board members and other interested community

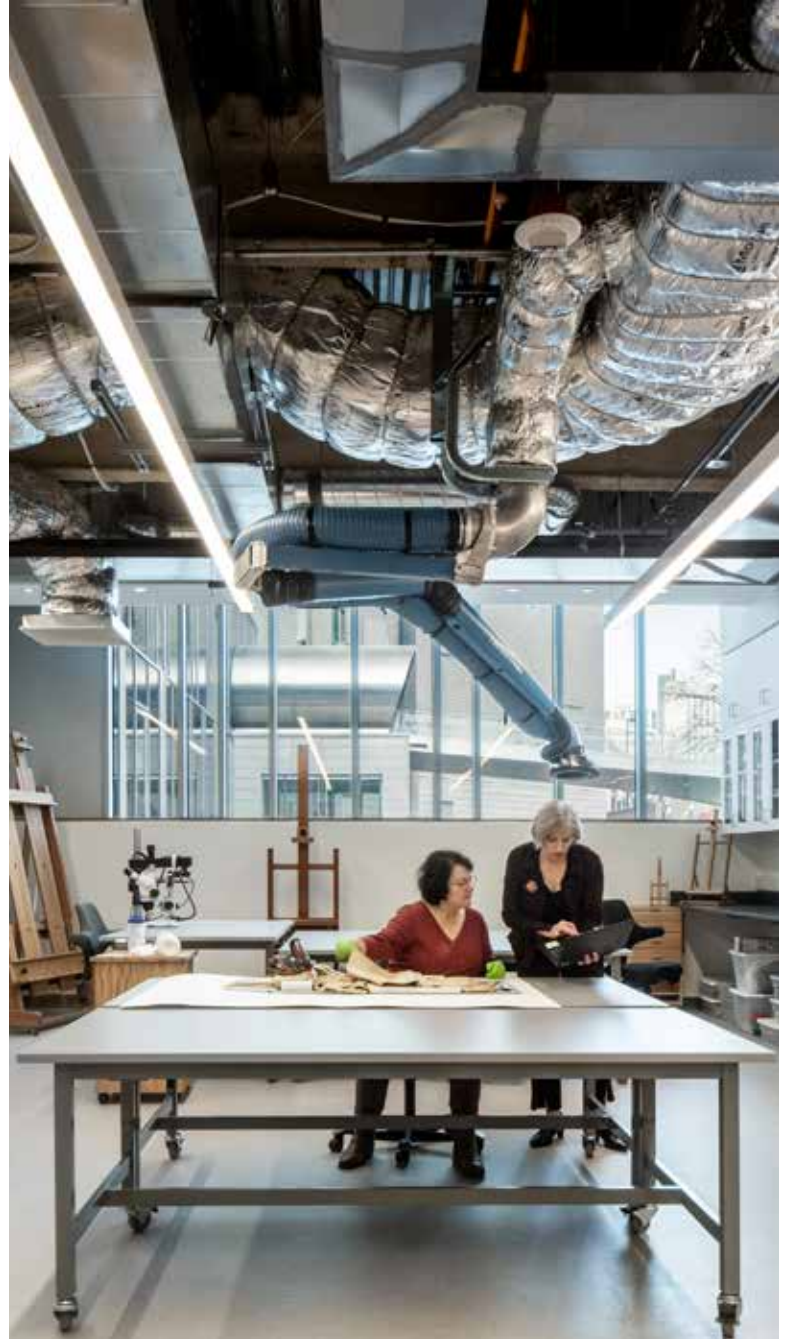


Photo courtesy of James Florio Photography



Photo courtesy of James Florio Photography

members, was created as part of a Mellon Foundation grant that endowed the department director position. Since 2006, the Mellon Foundation has provided funding toward three other conservator positions as well as for fellowships in textiles and paintings conservation, helping train new, emerging experts in the field.

Conservation is a continuously evolving field as art media changes and new technology develops. The future of conservation will be in leveraging different kinds of imaging and technological advancements to better identify the artistic process and analyze the materials that were used historically, enabling us to gain greater understanding of how something was made and how the materials might be changing or experiencing deterioration—all of which are important to the ongoing preservation and presentation of art for future generations.

To that end, we are currently raising funds for the Conservation Endowment to support treatment of objects in our collection and support research and consultation with experts, as well as equipment needed for technical study. We have already raised almost \$263,000 of our \$500,000 goal.

Learn more about conservation in an article on page 16. And, the next time you visit, stop by the conservation lab to see what they're working on.

Hope to see you at the museum soon!

Christoph Heinrich,
Frederick and Jan Mayer Director

OCTOBER 8, 2023–FEBRUARY 19, 2024
MEMBER PREVIEW OCTOBER 7

Amoako Boafo

Soul

of

Black

Folks

In October, Amoako Boafo's debut solo museum exhibition comes to the Denver Art Museum after stops in San Francisco, Houston, and Seattle. *Amoako Boafo: Soul of Black Folks* presents more than 30 works the artist created between 2016 and 2022 that tell stories about the beauty and complexity of Black life.

Amoako Boafo is curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah, who will oversee the exhibition's installation with the artist, and Rory Padeken, Vicki and Kent Logan Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. It is a continuation of the DAM's ongoing commitment to highlighting the work of Black contemporary artists, which has included solo exhibitions featuring El Anatsui, Mark Bradford, Jordan Casteel, Nick Cave, Senga Nengudi, and Simphiwe Ndzube, among others.

Boafo rose to international prominence in 2019 with his gallery exhibition *I SEE ME* at Roberts Projects in Los Angeles when his bold, vibrant, and textured works took the contemporary art world by storm. Born in 1984 and raised in Accra, Ghana,



**“I want to paint people who have had the same experiences as me. I want to see myself and have people see themselves in me.”
– Amoako Boafo**

he makes art with tenderness and conviction. Intimately connected to his experience living and working between Africa and Europe, his paintings are deeply personal. They serve as a means of self-preservation and self-affirmation—a celebration of his identity and Blackness. More than mere portraits, his figures assert the dignity and importance of Black people.

“Boafo’s work is powerful and vulnerable and encourages viewers to reflect on how our viewpoints influence the way we see the people around us,” said Christoph Heinrich, the Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the DAM.

The exhibition title was inspired by civil rights activist, sociologist, and Pan-Africanist W.E.B. Du Bois and his groundbreaking 1903 text on race in the United States, *The Souls of Black Folk*. Boafo grew up near



where Du Bois is buried in Accra and was influenced by Du Bois. Du Bois coined the phrase “double consciousness,” meaning the experience of Black people simultaneously having to look at themselves through their own and through white people’s points of view.

One might notice this influence in self-portraits like *Reflection I* in which Boafo captures the complex nature of a self divided. Instead of looking at himself through the eyes of “others” and looking at his reflection instead, Boafo challenges the “othered” gaze often applied to the Black body.

In addition to the powerful artworks on view, the exhibition features resources including videos, a selection of books curated by the Denver Public Library, and a music playlist curated by the artist that give insight into his influences and creative process. The member price for this ticketed exhibition is \$5.

Amoako Boafo: *Soul of Black Folks* is presented in partnership between Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and the Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco. The exhibition is curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah. The presentation of this exhibition at the Denver Art Museum is organized by Rory Padeken, Vicki and Kent Logan Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. It is funded by Vicki and Kent Logan, the Birnbaum Social Discourse Project, the donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign, and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Promotional support is provided by *5280 Magazine* and CBS Colorado.

IMAGES, PREVIOUS PAGE: Amoako Boafo, *Red Collar*, 2021. Oil on canvas; 84 x 108 in. Pamela Hornik Collection © Amoako Boafo; **THIS PAGE:** Amoako Boafo, *Reflection I*, 2018. Oil on paper; 51 1/8 x 43 3/8 in. Private collection, courtesy of Roberts Projects, Los Angeles. © Amoako Boafo. Image courtesy Roberts Projects, Los Angeles and Private Collection, photo: Robert Wedemeyer.



Members see it first!

Join us for a special Member Preview on October 7 and see the exhibition before it opens to the public. Tickets go on sale in September. For more information, visit the link below and click on Member Events.

 denverartmuseum.org/membership

October is National Estate Planning Month



An estate plan can secure your beneficiaries' future financial wellbeing and has practical benefits like avoiding unnecessary probate expenses and minimizing the costs of estate taxes. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to make a planned contribution to your favorite charities.

As a member of the Denver Art Museum committed to its mission to enrich the lives of present and future generations through art, you may consider making a lasting impact on our community through a planned gift.

Additionally, informing the museum staff of your intent to make a planned gift gives you the opportunity to join the museum's Helen Dill Society, participate in an annual event with the director, and receive recognition and appreciation for your thoughtful gift during your lifetime. It also allows you to choose how you can make a difference through your gift. For example, you may want to support kids' access to creative programming, contribute to the museum's world-class exhibitions, or help expand the museum's collections.

Planned gifts come in various forms. The simplest is to name the Denver Art Museum in your will or in a trust fund. You also can choose to make the museum a beneficiary of an IRA fund, a life insurance policy, or a Donor Advised Fund if you have established one. Furthermore, you can leave tangible assets such as real estate or art.

We would be happy to hear from you and talk more! Please do not hesitate to contact us at fundraising@denverartmuseum.org.



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

To see the full list of events in September and October, please check the calendar on our website or click on PROGRAMS on the top menu of our website. Unless otherwise indicated (\$), events are included with general admission, which is free for members. Events that are free or have an additional discount for Museum Friends are indicated with ✨. Unless otherwise indicated these events take place at the museum. Please note that events are subject to change, so please check our website for details.

September

2 BAJITO Y SUAVECITO: LOWRIDING IN THE SOUTHWEST WITH DENISE SANDOVAL, PHD

Bajito y suavecito, or "low and slow," describes a lowrider—a customized vehicle, its driver, and a way of life. Denise Sandoval, Professor of Chicano Studies at California State University, Northridge, and Victoria I. Lyall, Frederick and Jan Mayer Curator of the Art of the Ancient Americas will explore the history and culture of lowriding in the Southwest.

September 2 | 2 pm \$ ✨

5 MEET THE ARTIST: SPACE COMMAND'S CHRIS BAGLEY

Make contact with Chris Bagley, creator of *Space Command*. Tune in to out-of-this-world music with DJ and Sound Artist Ben Coleman, and explore the new immersive installation's whimsical approach to the atomic age. Intergalactic wear optional.

September 5 | 6–8 pm

9 34TH ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP POWWOW

Join the local Native community and enjoy music and dance performances, artmaking opportunities, Native organizations selling fry bread and Indian tacos, and vendors showcasing jewelry, art, crafts, clothing, and more. Grand Entry begins at 11 am in Sturm Grand Pavilion. Fun for the whole family!

September 9 | 10 am–5 pm

12 INSIGHT: REIMAGINING THE HAMILTON GALLERIES

Join Rory Padeken, Vicki and Kent Logan Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, and Emelighter Kihleng, Mellon Native Arts Fellow, to learn about the thinking and inspiration behind two dynamic new installations, decisions made along the way, and the global stories they hope to tell with the permanent collection artworks on view.

September 12 | 6 pm \$ ✨

17 ŠKÁTA: THE ART OF SKATEBOARDING

This afternoon of Škáta ("to play" in Lakota) is inspired by *Desert Rider* and presented in collaboration with Walt Pourier (Oglala Lakota) of Stronghold Society. Meet Indigenous artists designing skate decks, explore an installation of skateboards, enjoy music and performances, and make art. Fun for the whole family!

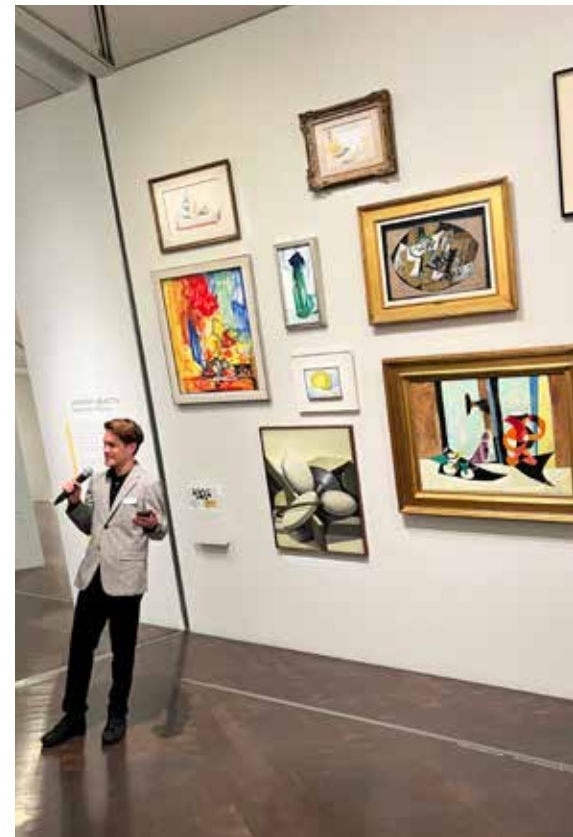
September 17 | 2–5 pm

26 ANDERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY LECTURE WITH KEISHA SCARVILLE

Photographer Keisha Scarville uses patterned fabrics, objects, and the landscape to explore themes of belonging, identity, family, loss, and transformation. In her pictures, she considers connections between presence and absence, landscape and the body, history and the present.

September 26 | 6–7 pm \$ ✨

Desert Rider: Dreaming in Motion gallery; Powwow 2022; Rory Padeken in the modern and contemporary art gallery



October

7 MEMBER PREVIEW AMOAKO BOAFO: SOUL OF BLACK FOLKS

Check out our newest exhibition featuring acclaimed Ghanaian artist Amoako Bofo. Tickets on sale to Contributing level members and above September 5 and to all members September 6.

October 7 | 10 am–5 pm \$

17 LOGAN LECTURE WITH DIANA THATER

Among the most important artists to emerge in the early 1990s, Los Angeles-based artist Diana Thater creates encompassing film and video installations in which she suffuses architectural space with layers of color, imagery, and light. Thater reconsiders notions of time and space by exploring animal subjectivities and our precarious relationship with the natural world. Join Rory Padeken, Vicki and Kent Logan Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, in conversation with Diana Thater about her groundbreaking work in moving images.

October 17 | 6 pm \$ *

19 BERGER PRIZE WINNER TALK FEATURING DR. AYMONINO

Join us for a presentation by Dr. Adriano Aymonino who will share more about his recent publication, *Enlightened Eclecticism The Grand Design of the 1st Duke and Duchess of Northumberland*, as the 2022 William M.B. Berger Prize winner for British Art History.

October 19 | 6 pm \$ *

27 UNTITLED: ARTIST TAKEOVER Featuring Abena and Cherish Marquez

Don't miss the last Untitled event of the year! Featured artists Abena and Cherish Marquez are collaborating with a host of other local creatives for an immersive evening of performances, artmaking, and special experiences.

October 27 | 6–10 pm

The Anderman Photography Lecture Series presents talks by the preeminent creators and thinkers in photography today. Sponsored by the DAM Photography Department. Series funding is generously provided by Evan and Elizabeth Anderman.

The BCET Lecture Series presents talks on American and European art from the 15th through the 19th centuries by leading scholars. Series funding is generously provided by the Berger Collection Educational Trust. Additional support is provided by the Michael and Karen Fried Community Education Fund.

The Friendship Powwow and Free Days at the DAM are presented by Your 6 Front Range Toyota Stores and made possible by the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Additional support provided by Native American Bank.

The Landscape Studio is generously sponsored by Robert and Judi Newman Family Foundation.

Lifelong Learning and Accessibility programs are supported by the William Randolph Hearst Endowment for Education Programs, Nancy Benson Education Endowment Fund, CenturyLink Endowment, Jim Kelley and Amie Knox Education Endowment Fund, and the Cooke-Daniels Fund. Support is also provided by NextFifty Initiative, LinkAGES Colorado, the Michael and Karen Fried Community Education Fund, and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

The Logan Lecture series is sponsored by Vicki and Kent Logan.



Ongoing Programs

ART & ABOUT

Art & About tours are designed for visitors with early-stage Alzheimer's or dementia and their care partners. Experience and discuss art together on a tour led by a specially trained guide on the second Thursday of the month. Themes change every month.

September 14 & October 12 | 1–2:45 pm

DROP-IN DRAWING

Join artist Anna Kaye for fun and informal creative art sessions. Bring a drawing or sketching project of your own or get started on something new. All ranges of drawing experience welcome!

September 12 (online) | 1–2 pm & October 10 (onsite) 1–3 pm

MINDFUL LOOKING

Mindful Looking invites you to slow down and spend time with a single work of art. Discover overlooked details, pose questions, and explore ideas as we linger, look, and connect with art and with each other.

September 19 (online) & October 17 (onsite) | 1–1:45 pm

DROP-IN WRITING

Explore your creativity through the written word in our informal writing sessions led by instructors from Lighthouse Writers Workshop.

September 26 (online) & October 24 (onsite) | 1–3 pm

DEMONSTRATING ARTISTS IN THE LANDSCAPE STUDIO

On the weekends, get a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process and connect with Colorado-based artists. Please check the website for more details.

Alexander Richard Wilson

September 16 & 17, September 30 & October 1
Noon–3 pm

Raymundo Muñoz

October 14 & 15, 28 & 29 | Noon–3 pm

Amoako Boafo Tickets

ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER

Amoako Boafo: Soul of Black Folks opens October 8. The special ticket price for members is \$5.

Ticket on-sale dates:

September 5 | Contributing level members and above

September 6 | All members

September 7 | Nonmembers

 Learn more at
denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/amoako-boafo

Fall/Winter Course **THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION: ART AS EXPERIENCE**

American collector Duncan Phillips saw art as a vital source of healing, joy, and spiritual nourishment. In this four-part course, learn about his unique collecting philosophy, discover celebrated artworks on view in *All Stars: American Artists from The Phillips Collection* (opens in November with tickets on sale in October), and see how artists across time have explored important issues and human connection.

Registration for the course opens in October. Visit the museum website for details.

 Learn more at
denverartmuseum.org/all-stars-course

Member Benefits

Renew your membership to support the museum's mission while also enjoying many benefits such as free admission, discounts on ticketed exhibitions, guest passes to share with family and friends, and so much more!



See exhibitions first!

Mark your calendar for the Member Preview for *All Stars: American Artists from The Phillips Collection* on November 11.

Enjoy the **best prices** on exhibitions and discounts in the Shop and programs and events. Members enjoy *Amoako Boafo* and *All Stars* for only \$5.



Explore collection galleries in the Martin Building and Hamilton Building **for free**, including *The Russells in Denver, 1921*, and *The Skeletal World of José Guadalupe Posada*. Both open in October.



Learn more at
denverartmuseum.org/membership

Perf
Fold

September

DENVER art MUSEUM

S F T W

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month
(September 15–October 15) with a visit to the Latin American art galleries and *Desert Rider* (through September 24).

3
Member Tour
Desert Rider
11 am

4
The museum is open
Labor Day
10 am–5 pm

5
Meet the Artist:
Space Command's
Chris Bagley
6–8 pm



7
Member Tour
Desert Rider
2:30 pm



9
FREE DAY
Friendship Powwow
10 am

Photo courtesy of Instagram user @petenov528

10
Member Tour
Desert Rider
11 am



12
FREE DAY
Drop-In Drawing
(online)
1–2 pm
Insight: Reimagining the
Hamilton Galleries
6 pm

13

14
Member Tour
Desert Rider
2:30 pm
Art & About Tour
1 pm

15

16

17
Member Tour
Desert Rider
11 am
Škátá: The Art of
Skateboarding
2 pm

Photo courtesy of Instagram user @cityylean

18

24
Desert Rider closes
Member Tour
Desert Rider
11 am



Photo courtesy of Instagram user @grigoneglobal

19
Mindful Looking
(online)
1–1:45 pm

20

21
Member Tour
Desert Rider
2:30 pm

21



27

28

Photo courtesy of Instagram user @tropiano

October

S F T W

1
The Russells in Denver, 1921, opens



5

Charles M. Russell, *Wagons* (detail), 1921. Oil paint on canvas, 30 × 48 in. Courtesy The Rees-Jones Collection.

6

7
Member Preview
Amoako Bofofo: Soul of Black Folks
10 am–5 pm

8
Amoako Bofofo: Soul of Black Folks opens
Foxy & Shmoxy:
Art Detectives
10:30 & 11:30 am



10
FREE DAY
Drop-In Drawing
(onsite)
1–3 pm

11

12
Art & About Tour
1 pm

13



15

Photo courtesy of Instagram user @ms_mediab

17
Mindful Looking
(onsite)
1–1:45 pm
Logan Lecture:
Diana Thater
6 pm

18

19
Berger Prize Winner
Talk: Dr. Aymonino
6 pm

20

Photo courtesy of Instagram user @lifeofisah

22

23

24
Drop-In Writing
(onsite)
1–3 pm

25



27
Untitled:
Artist Takeover
6–10 pm

28



29
The Skeletal World of José Guadalupe Posada opens

José Guadalupe Posada, *La Calavera de Coquera/Morbo (The Calavera of Coquera/Morbo)* (detail), 1910. Wood block print on paper, 15 1/8 × 11 1/8 in. Denver Art Museum. Gift of Charles F. Rasmus, 1948.852

Check out the fall menu
at The Ponti restaurant.





On view in the western American art galleries in the Martin Building.

Andrew Dasburg, *Chantrel Lane (detail)*, 1926. Oil on canvas; 30 x 24 in. Denver Art Museum. Gift of Albert Wassenich by exchange, 1977. © Estate of Andrew Dasburg

Coming Soon

The Russells in Denver, 1921

Opens October 1

See page 12.

Amoako Boafo: Soul of Black Folks

Opens October 8

Member Preview October 7

See page 4.

The Skeletal World of José Guadalupe Posada

Opens October 29

All Stars: American Artists from

The Phillips Collection

Opens November 12

Member Preview November 11

Tickets go on sale to Contributing level members and above on October 16, to all members on October 17.

Now On View

Architecture and Design

By Design: Stories and Ideas Behind Objects, *Gio Ponti: Designer of a Thousand Talents*, and *Cast in Light: Czech Studio Glass* showcase 350 objects from this collection.

Arts of the Ancient Americas

These galleries present artwork made by Indigenous communities from across the Americas, from the Southwestern United States to the Andes, beginning in 2,000 BCE.

Arts of Africa

Highlights from the DAM's collection including new acquisitions by contemporary artists including Ethiopian artists Selome Muleta and Merikokeb Berhanu.

Arts of Asia

With a mix of treasures from the past and exciting contemporary additions, about 840 artworks on view emphasize the continuity and connections between Asian artistic traditions.

European Art before 1800

These galleries feature approximately 65 works from the DAM's collection of paintings and decorative arts.

Indigenous Arts of North America

The DAM is home to a world-renowned and comprehensive collection of Indigenous arts of North America. A dedicated gallery titled Home/Land honors the local Ute, Arapaho, and Cheyenne communities.

Islands Beyond Blue: Niki Hastings-McFall and Treasures from the Oceania Collection

The first exhibition to center arts of Oceania at the DAM since 2016 showcases the US debut of Hastings-McFall's acclaimed *Polynisation* series as well as highlights from the DAM's collection.

Latin American Art

The DAM's Latin American art collection is among the most comprehensive in the United States and features artwork created in Latin America between the 1500s and the early 1900s.

Modern and Contemporary Art

This stunning fresh take on the collection looks anew at the work of historically recognized figures, established contemporary artists, and notable emerging voices. See old favorites back on view and artworks new to the collection.

Personal Geographies: Trent Davis Bailey | Brian Adams

Two artists seek to understand themselves and the places they treasure through photography.

Space Command

Probe the boundless mysteries of space by wandering and immersing your senses through sight, sound, and touch as you take in the wonders of "cosmic" debris in this installation created by Chris Bagley.

ALL STARS

AMERICAN ARTISTS
FROM THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION



Upgrade your membership OPENING NIGHT

Join Frederick and Jan Mayer Director Christoph Heinrich for an exhibition opening party inspired by *All Stars: American Artists from The Phillips Collection*, one of the most celebrated collections of American art traveling from Washington, DC to Denver this fall. The Opening Gala features a first preview, along with drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and entertainment. Upgrade your membership to The Museum Associates and receive an invitation for two to this fabulous evening, in addition to special previews and other unique events at the museum throughout the year. Annual Fund Leadership Campaign supporters are also invited to attend the intimate Chairman's Dinner in advance of the gala. For more information about the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign and The Museum Associates, contact Courtney Huffman at chuffman@denverartmuseum.org or 720-913-0037.

Walt Kuhn, *Plumes* (detail), 1931. Oil on canvas; 40 in. x 30 in. The Phillips Collection: Acquired 1932

The 19th Century in European and American Art

Works from the museum's collection created in the 1800s including paintings by Vincent van Gogh, Berthe Morisot, Paul Cézanne, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and others.

Western American Art

The DAM's collection stands as one of the finest of its kind that presents the complex and inherently diverse story of western American art.

Closing Soon

Desert Rider: Dreaming in Motion Through September 24

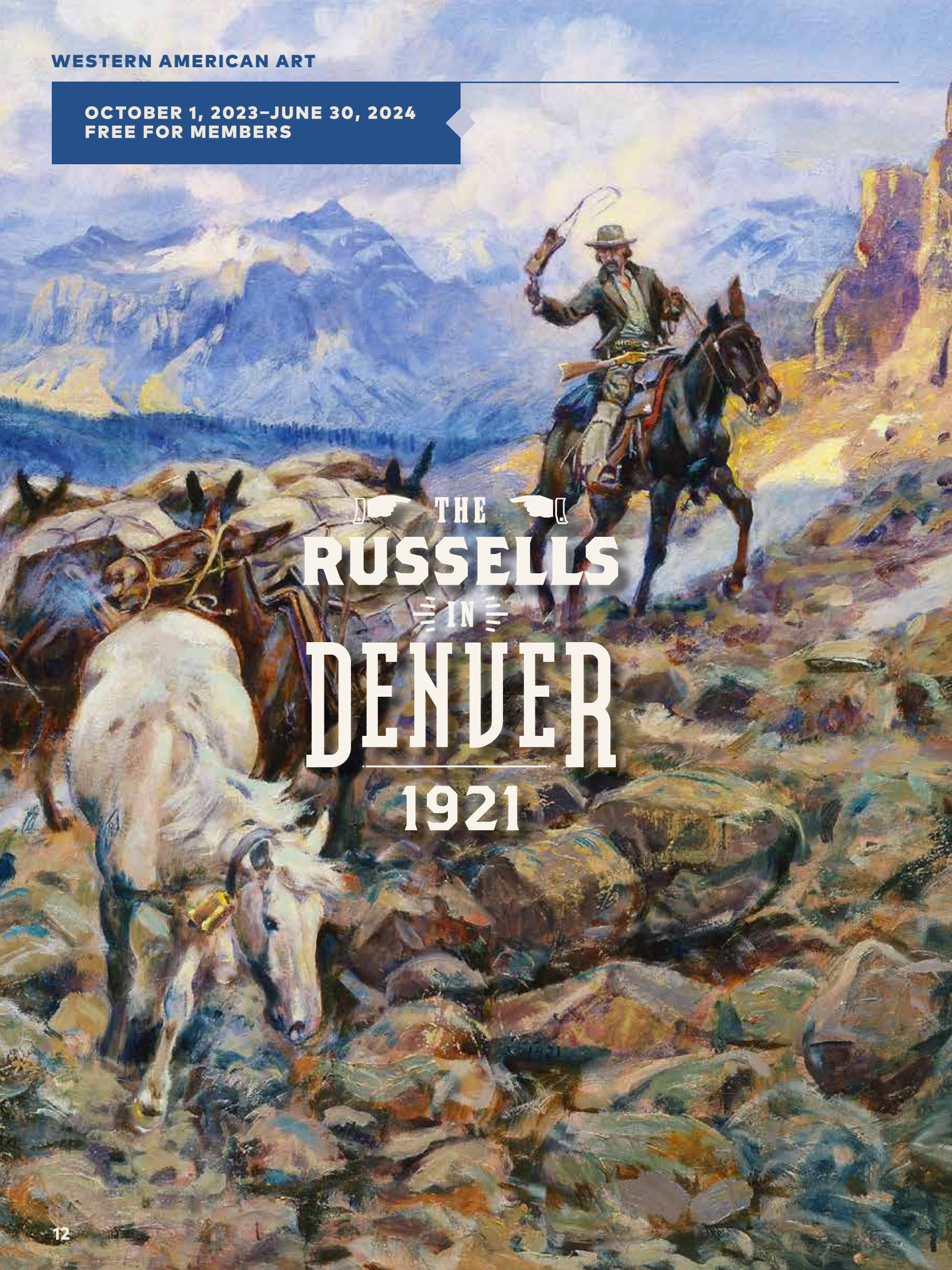
See this exploration of lowrider and skateboard culture before it cruises out of town.



Trent Davis Bailey (American, born 1985), *Karen, Hotchkiss, Colorado*, 2014. Pigment ink print; 32 x 40 in. Courtesy the artist and Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco © Trent Davis Bailey

WESTERN AMERICAN ART

OCTOBER 1, 2023–JUNE 30, 2024
FREE FOR MEMBERS



THE
RUSSELLS
IN
DENVER
1921



The Russells in Denver, 1921, remembers a largely overlooked episode in the life of the artist Charles M. Russell: his solo exhibition, organized by his wife, Nancy, that took place in Denver the last week of November and first week of December 1921 at The Brown Palace Hotel.

By the 1920s, Charlie had devoted nearly 30 years of his life to painting what he called “the west that has passed.” After moving to Montana as a teenager in the 1880s, he worked for a decade on the range before devoting himself full-time to art. After Charlie and Nancy married in 1896, Nancy took on a critical role as business and marketing manager. With her support of his talent, Charlie grew into one of the greatest narrative artists of the American West.

When the Russells arrived in Denver in 1921, they were greeted by a bustling city that strongly identified

with its western cow-town roots and boasted an established and growing arts and culture scene. During the two weeks they resided at The Brown Palace, they were wined and dined across town. The local press praised the nine paintings and seven painted plasters (which would later be cast into bronze sculptures) on display. These included some of the artist’s most iconic works to date, including the DAM’s own *In the Enemy’s Country*.

Over a century later, *The Russells in Denver, 1921*, presents a selection of the artworks that were on display at The Brown Palace, tells the story of Denver in the 1920s, and acknowledges Nancy’s critical role in the Russell art enterprise.

-JR (Jennifer R.) Henneman, Director and Curator of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art

Charles M. Russell, *When Mules Wear Diamonds* (detail), 1921. Oil paint on canvas, 30 × 33 in. National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum: Museum Purchase, 1972.25; **Charles M. Russell, *Piegans***, 1918. Oil paint on canvas, 24 × 36 in. Petrie Collection, Denver, Colorado.

The Russells in Denver, 1921, is organized by the Denver Art Museum. Support is provided by the donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Promotional support is provided by *5280 Magazine* and CBS Colorado.

In every issue, we highlight recent acquisitions or gifts to the Denver Art Museum. These photographs are not currently on view.

DAM Unboxed

The DAM is grateful for a gift of over 100 photographs bequeathed by the late Joyce and Ted Strauss, longtime Denverites (lately of Solana Beach, California). Staunch supporters of the DAM for more than 30 years, Joyce and Ted donated or loaned nearly 1,200 artworks to the Art of the Ancient Americas, Modern and Contemporary Art and Photography departments. They worked tirelessly to attract funding for exhibitions and acquisitions and steered many gifts from other collectors into the museum's hands.

Photography was the Strausses' particular area of expertise. As the museum's Adjunct Curator of Photography, Ted presented 20 exhibitions between 1985 and 1994 and, with Joyce and others, added significantly to the photography collection. Two of Ted's projects—*Where Images Come From: Drawings and Photographs by Frederick Sommer* in 1988 and the 1994 show *Experimental Vision: The Evolution of the Photogram Since 1919*—laid valuable groundwork for later scholars with exciting artworks and fine catalogs.

This final gift from Joyce and Ted reflects their adventuresome spirit as well as their knowledge of photographic history. In their collection, early works of European Modernism, American Post-War photography, and contemporary portraiture stood side by side with constructed photographs, conceptual work, and photographs by artists who also are recognized as first-rate painters, sculptors, or filmmakers.



Everglades

Photographer Mary Peck has studied the way landscapes reflect how human beliefs reshape or make accommodation with the environment. Her curiosity has guided her from ancient Greek temples to Arizona's Chaco Canyon, and from villages in Bhutan to the K&L oil pipeline. For many years she has photographed the changing landscapes along the Elwha River in Washington State, where Indigenous tribes successfully sued for the removal of an outdated hydroelectric dam. Peck's photographs from Everglades National Park contemplate the complex relationships among water, plant and animal life, and reflected sky. *Everglades* (1984) is a gentle, inquisitive, and quietly reassuring photograph that seems to suspend time.

Untitled

John Pilson's *Untitled* (1998–2000) is from his series *Interregna*, which grew out of Pilson's day job (actually his night job) as a computer graphics designer at a Wall Street financial firm. "Interregna" is a Latin term used to describe the time period between rulers, when no one is in charge. Working the graveyard shift with a few colleagues, Pilson wandered the office floor during slow spells, making pictures that suggest both the isolation and the camaraderie of his work place. *Untitled* shows the blurry figure of a man in a window, with a bright office behind him and the sparkling city outside. His body seems to contain a glittering space, and his head is tilted as if in thought. The moments of surprise, bafflement, and humor that run through the overall series later inspired Pilson—now on the photography faculty at Yale—to enlist his coworkers in a video of office high jinks.



IR9S

James Welling never touched a camera to make *IR9S* (2001). Instead, he placed a sheet of color photographic paper under a darkroom enlarger with dials that controlled the color of the light projected onto the paper. Welling slowly turned those dials as he drew a sheet of cardboard between the paper and the light. The changing light created the hues in his picture; the moving cardboard made some areas darker than others. While an explanation of the technical process might confound viewers who have never set foot in a darkroom, the process is hardly the point: Welling's photogram is a shimmering hint at the miracle of light itself.

This new, final Strauss gift builds perfectly on foundations that Joyce and Ted established for the DAM photography collection 30 and 40 years ago. It caps a long, thoughtful, generous friendship that will continue to enhance the collection and influence its future growth.

-Eric Paddock, Curator of Photography

The Chronicles of Conservation

"That which does not kill us makes us stronger." Carl Patterson, the Denver Art Museum's first conservator, posted that sign on the door to the conservation laboratory. His intention was pure humor, yet Friedrich Nietzsche's quote became a testimony to the department's commitment to preserving and safeguarding the museum's collection.

Patterson was trained as an objects conservator and hired by the DAM in 1991, and at first the conservation department was just his office. Over the next 18 years, he would strategically consolidate and outfit storage areas, design and equip more than one conservation laboratory, and hire trained conservators with distinct specializations. Since 1993, mountmaking has been an essential part of the department, with dedicated staff and workspace.

The first conservation laboratory was in the basement of the Martin Building. In 1994, it moved to the seventh floor. In 2006, with the completion of the Hamilton Building, The Margaret Page Conservation Laboratory was established on the lower level. Works on paper, photographs, and oversize objects and paintings are conserved in this space.

In 2009, Patterson retired as Director Emeritus of Conservation, which is when I assumed the role. By 2014, conservation specializations expanded, representing paintings and objects, plus textiles, modern and contemporary art, electronic media, works on paper, and photographs. An associate director position was established in 2022.

For textile conservation, PreView opened in 2013 in the northwest corner of the sixth floor of the Martin Building. Large windows into the space invite visitors to see treatments as they happen. The department also has a space for the range of equipment necessary for electronic media preservation.

In 2019, to reflect overall objectives and expertise, the department was renamed Conservation and Technical Studies (CATS). In addition to performing examinations and conservation treatment, the staff continues to undertake research and technical analysis that determine colorants, materials, and agents of deterioration.



With the completion of the Martin Building in 2021, the seventh-floor space was replaced with a new, purpose-built laboratory on the lower level. Objects, paintings, and modern and contemporary art are conserved in this area. The north facing windows provide a uniform spectrum of light for examination and treatment and enable visitor viewing.

Currently, there are eight full-time conservators and mountmakers. Four of those positions are supported by endowed grants from the Mellon Foundation, the first of which was for the Director of Conservation plus one additional conservator. This grant also provided impetus to form a Conservation Advisory Committee who, since 2006, have been actively engaged in promoting awareness. Two subsequent grants support staff conservators in paintings and textiles, plus fellowships in the respective specializations.

Mirroring the objectives of the profession, CATS is dedicated to training the next generation of art conservators. Since 1994, nearly 30 interns and fellows have furthered their training at the DAM—23 of those since 2008. We also are committed to engaging individuals from marginalized communities so that the conservators doing the work reflect the breadth of cultures in our collective heritage.

Many of the improvements were supported by federal and private grants. Individual project grants from The European Fine Arts Fair, Kress Foundation, and Bank of America have supported in-depth research on collection objects that have enabled access to analytical techniques outside of the museum, and collaboration with other experts, including those from originating communities. In addition, the museum is grateful to an enthusiastic cadre of volunteers who dedicated their time and energy from the early 1990s until 2007. Volunteers continue to be part of conservation efforts.

From one staff member with a small office to a robust team of professionals and dedicated volunteers with multiple spaces to work, conservation has come a long way at the DAM. If you're interested in this work and would like to help the museum continue to preserve works we hold in the public trust, please visit the conservation page on our website, and please consider making a donation to the conservation endowment. Learn more at denverartmuseum.org/conservation.

-Sarah Melching, Silber Director of Conservation



To donate, scan the QR code with your phone or visit the website below.



justgiving.com/campaign/DAMartconservation

THE PONTI

The Ponti presents a locally sourced and inspired menu. Reservations recommended.

BRUNCH 11 AM-4 PM SAT & SUN
LUNCH 11 AM-4 PM DAILY
DINNER 5-9 PM TUESDAYS ONLY



thepontidenver.com

STOP BY THE
Shop!

BEST MUSEUM SHOP
Westword 2023



Bring in this ad for

20% off

ONE ITEM IN THE SHOP

Your purchase supports the Denver Art Museum.

720.865.4488
shop.denverartmuseum.org

Offer expires October 31, 2023.
Cannot be combined with other offers.

100 W. 14th Avenue Pkwy | Denver, CO 80204-2788

DENVER art MUSEUM

Dated Material • Do Not Delay

Questions or comments about your member magazine?
Let us know at info@denverartmuseum.org.



printrelease

More than 2,000 trees planted!

The DAM is involved with PrintRelease to offset paper consumption by planting trees—just one of our green initiatives. Use your phone camera on this QR code to see how many thousands of pounds of paper we have offset and how many trees we have reforested since we joined the program in July 2020.

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MGI

Printed with soy and vegetable inks on recycled paper.