Museum of Friends Annual Report: April through December, 2013

Introduction:
In the past 7 years, MOF has recognized the need to present programs and exhibitions that attract our community and promote community involvement and cohesion. Through programming and a vital exhibition schedule MOF encourages a larger audience to visit Walsenburg and, with the intention of positive economic impact to the community. In 2013, many exciting community initiatives evolved with the interest of local organizations and individuals who approached the Museum of Friends. All of the Exhibitions listed below were the direct result of these collaborations. The Friday Art Laboratory evolved into art activities that emphasize the overlap with Science, Technology, Ecology, Mathematics, and Literacy. Exhibition Programming evolved into shows that were initiated with ideas from community members who voiced their interests in surveys and conversations. The new Art Thrift and Gift Shop “Made in Walsenburg” was a direct response to the quality of life questionnaire answered by numerous community members during the “Where’s Walsenburg?” project.

What We Presented: Exhibitions, Family Programs, Youth Classes, including the “School-Tour” program with Walsenburg and La Veta School District, The Friday Art Lab. Public Programs including “Artists Talk on Art Series”, Community Outreach programs with the Las Animas and Huerfano County Developmentally Disabled Center, the Sangre de Cristo Center for Youth, and the Adult classes with Senior Citizens and the Colorado State Veterans Home at Walsenburg. Collaborations with the El Fandango Dancers, The Huerfano World Journal, New Hope Church, The Downtown Revitalization Committee, The Muriel Sharpe Foundation, Colorado College, Colorado Springs. Planning and focus committees included School District Administrators, Huerfano County/Las Animas County Family Resource Center, The City of Walsenburg financial planner, La Veta and Walsenburg Library administrators, local and national artists, educators, musicians and drummers from Aztlan Native American Community Center, and community activists, Spanish Peaks Community Foundation, The E-Academy Building Construction Campus, Museum volunteers and volunteers from the Mormon Church Missionaries, the Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center and numerous volunteers.
Outreach Programs 2013:

Pre-school Head Start Program visiting Water is Gold Exhibit,

Gardner School Grade 6 School Tour Program
Curriculum goals: Narrative and Identity.

E-Academy Building Construction Campus volunteers constructing "Made in Walsenburg Art, Thrift, and Gift Shop display area"
Outreach Programs 2013:

Planning for the Day of the Dead with focus group; Downtown Revitalization President and Editor of local newspaper.

Workshops for Friday Art Lab. Goals: Science, Anatomy and Self Portraits
Outreach Programs: 2013

Ione Glumac demonstrating painting techniques to senior citizens from Colorado State Veterans Home at Walsenburg.

Walsenburg Women's Coalition

Las Animas and Huerfano County Developmentally Disabled Center, Walsenburg Day Services
Outreach Programs 2013:

Day of the Dead Community Program

Community Programs 2013:

Students from Muriel Sharpe Foundation, Colorado College, Colorado Springs.

Dean Fleming, drumming and chanting with Atzlan Native American Members.
Exhibitions:

Spring, 2013

Water is Gold March 8, 2013
For immediate release:
ARTISTS NEW EXHIBITION FOR YOUR WORK TO BE SEEN

The Museum of Friends is proud to announce a new exhibition Water, Water Everywhere and Not a Drop to be Found or (Water is Gold). Works by contemporary artists will be included and no fee or jury selection will be involved. Paintings, sculptures, films, and mixed media that explore the issue of water or have water, as the major theme will be accepted. Works must be delivered ready to hang or display by April 12th. The drop-off time will be noon until 4 pm on that day. However, if another time needs to be arranged please call 738-2858, to do so.

In conjunction with the 2013 Arkansas River Basin Water Forum hosted by the City of Walsenburg, the exhibition Water is Gold will open on April 24, Wednesday from 3:30 to 7 pm - the exhibition will remain on view through July 31st.

Forum attendees may visit other exhibitions at the Museum of Friends and tour both floors, during the conference April 23rd thru 25th.

Water Is Gold ~ or Water Water Every Where and Not a Drop

To be Found

April 24th through June 21st

In conjunction with the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum

The exhibition Water is Gold was organized with the community of Walsenburg at its core. An open call to artists with no jury or fee accumulated all that is on view. In collaboration with the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum, the Museum of Friends intends to extend the understanding of art and science. Water is the main object of inspiration of the paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, video film, sculptures, and ceramic works on view, and for the Water Forum. Through this collaboration a deeper understanding of the importance of water for the citizens of Huerfano County will be accomplished. Surprisingly, many artists from the surrounding areas of La Veta, Gardner, Libre, Trinidad, Pueblo, and Denver heard about the exhibition and participated. Artists working as far away as New York, San Francisco, and Emeryville, California, Corrales, New Mexico, Naples, Italy, and London, England heard the call, too.

Why the theme of water? It is personal and historical. When I was a child growing up in Brooklyn with immigrant grandparents a cry heard repeatedly was “shut the water.” If, for an extra second it was running, I would then hear an expletive in Italian L'acqua é l'oro – translation Water is Gold or sometimes, Blue Gold (l'oro blu.) Southern Italians those coming from Naples and especially Sicily, (the bread basket of the country) were continually challenged by drought or in some cases lack of water due to corrupt politics. The situation continues to this day, where in Sicily the local Mafia has pilfered water from private wells, and public water systems. As one of the worst droughts in recent history, on record for the 3rd year in a row, water, the electrical grid and agriculture all ride on
those in power doing the right thing. Here in Southern Colorado, water is at the center of
current controversies including the method that large oil companies use to extract oil that
demands large quantities water, perhaps better used for agriculture and livestock.

**Why water in art?**

Historically water has served as the inspiration to many painters, poets, and musical
composers. Water has a healing effect - watching the power of a wave at the ocean floor, a lake
where the shimmering sun goes down may have prompted the “Water Lilies” by Monet, or
Hokusai’s “The Wave,” or George Frederick Handel’s “Water Music,” or last by not least Maurice
Ravel’s “D’eaux D’eau” (the Joy of Water.) Artists also choose this subject matter for its formal
qualities as the changing; rhythms offer a myriad of possibilities and challenges. The artists included
in this exhibition have responded to the power of water through illustration, realism, abstraction,
sculpture, film/video, light boxes, and the most recently political work in service to the aftermath
of the floods in New York City. Tony Dalton’s conceptual work “Water” and Antonio Petraccas’s
“The flood” contain none of the usual elements of beauty associated with water but a whisper of
the anxiety connected to the realization that global warming is in process. A local Walsenburg
artist, Lone Glumac responds to the fleeting beauty of nature as experienced over many decades of
living in Huerfano. Her love of outdoors and changing seasons is evidenced in the three
landscapes on view. However, she too has observed the changing effects of poor environmental
stewardship in our area. Ms. Glumac observes, “When I moved to Walsenburg nearly 50 years
ago, there was beauty abounding in this town, people planted flowers everywhere – our
abundance of water supported our agricultural, community and personal needs.” Her response
living here today is: “I don’t see green lawns, water fountains and colorful flowers, I see a brown
town, due to the drought, and the expense of our increasing water rates, dead trees. In the future
I will have to start painting from memory.”

Camille Seaman originally from Long Island, New York and a member of the Shinnecock
Native American tribe learned how nature and art intersected at an early age. She was schooled
by her grandfather, Lester Redfield Seaman who took Camille and her brother into the woods to
“teach us how to not just see a tree but to recognize the tree as an individual.” Her film “Ice,”
was created as she observed day by day what is really happening as icebergs melt, and “was a
confirmation of everything my grandfather had tried to teach me.” Ms. Seaman noted that during
the 8 years of her photographic project in Antarctica she observed that the same iceberg in 2005
was over 1,100 square miles; years later and 7000 miles away it was diminished to roughly 250
square miles.

Also a strong voice for environmental responsibility, Jaune Quick-to-see Smith, an
enrolled Flathead Salish with Cree, and Shoshone heritage rejoices through her repertoire of
pictographic imagery while reminding us of contemporary issues that confront our reality. Ms.
Smith’s collage “H2O” on view speaks to the many aspects of water contained within ritual, the
industrialization of the west, and its role in the global necessity for healing.

Dean Fleming’s large acrylic on canvas “Sayulita,” from 2003 extols his love of nature.
An artist who relocated to Huerfano County and began the community of artists known as Libre,
44 years ago, high above Gardner has devoted his whole life to his love of painting and nature.
The changing clouds, seasons, conditions all have inspired his landscapes of many years. Currently,
his work reminds us of an earlier expression in that the formal qualities of space, color and line
are evolving leading us to the Fourth Dimension. MOF is pleased to note, that Mr. Fleming will be
exhibiting his paintings with the sculptures of Charles Parsons, following the “Water is Gold,”
exhibition. Chuck as he is known, Parsons, has also chosen Gardner as his preferred place to
create. He lives between Denver and here, and his sculptures address the human role within our environment.

MOF would like to thank all of the generous participating artists and community members who have made this exhibition possible: Dean Fleming, Robert Schwinger, Clyde Schroeder, Camille Seaman, Richard Mock, Chuck Parsons, Michael Burrows, John Carlson, Janey Waldrep, Brendt Berger, Maria Cocchiarelli, Brett Habermann, Antonio Petracca, Kelly Burgess, Paul Yalowitz, Zoe Childerley, Joan Cantrell, Tony Dalton, Jim Fowler, Kenny Showell, Jim Wark, Christo, Carey Linn, Kathy Hill, Ben Eagle, Nicole Copel, Libby Barbee, Robert Sussman, Gordon Lucero, Jaune Quick-to-see Smith, Aurora Cocchiarelli-Petrillo, Bobby Valentine, Ann Gethen, Ione Glumac, Joan Hanley, Raggio, John Wark, Dietrich Varez, David Elmer Pearce, Beatrice Mady, Richard Lillis, Gabrielle Ratajczak, Shigeo Matsubara, and Matt Gonzalez.

Exhibitions

Dean Fleming Paintings and Charles Parson Sculptures, July 4th thru October 19th

For Immediate Release
Contact: Maria Berger, 719-738-2858

New Art Exhibition Opening at the Museum of Friends in Walsenburg on July 4th at Noon, 600 Main Street. The exhibition Dean Fleming New Paintings, Charles Parson, Sculptures continues through October 19, 2013

The Museum of Friends in Walsenburg, Colorado is pleased to announce the opening of a new and innovative art exhibition – the works of two Colorado artists- painter Dean Fleming and sculptor Charles Parson. Both artists have extensive exhibition records throughout the United States and this is the first time that their work has been shown together. The show opens on July 4th and celebrates this collaboration with the Museum in Walsenburg, the first Contemporary Art Museum in this part of Colorado.

In celebration of Dean Fleming’s work and association with the Native American Community in Aztlan a drum group will initiate the opening with drumming and chanting. This will begin promptly at noon.

The new works by Dean Fleming explore the “4th Dimension” of space through color and line. The results are varied and a feast for the eye. Charles Parson large-scale sculptures explore his relationship with the landscape of Huerfano County while he utilizes innovative methods and materials. The combination of these two artists’ efforts in the spectacular ground floor “New Works” Gallery of the Museum of Friends is sure to please all who attend.

The Museum of Friends offers public programs, educational and intern opportunities. Please join us on the 4th of July at noon, and for the ever popular “Artists talk on Art” series – for Dean Fleming on August 1 and Charles Parson on September 19th, both begin at 5:30 and take place in the exhibition space.
Volunteers helping with art installation for Charles Parson and Dean Fleming exhibits.

**Dean Fleming, Paintings**

The Museum of Friends is thrilled and honored to exhibit the new revolutionary paintings of Dean Fleming. I have known Dean since 1965, where he was at the center of the most exciting art being exhibited in New York City. This was the Park Place co-operative Gallery on West Broadway in Greenwich Village during the 1960's. The Park Place Gallery was well documented in the exhibit, *Reimagining Space*, at the Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin in 2008.

Dean's new work is a vision of a new world not seen before. Imagine the courage of letting go old habits, entering a new world, chronicling this journey using 3 or 4 colors, a couple of forms and all this played out on a canvas 6ft. x 8ft. The first steps awkward almost stumbling yet at the end of the day, the results fully embraced. As each new painting makes its appearance the obvious confidence returns reflecting a life long passion, like a runner settling into a stride of blissful presence.

Yes these paintings are both difficult and confrontational in their simplified forms and bold use of color. The longer one looks, the more they dance, resisting all cognition. It is this resistance that snaps the mind into an altered state, in which the picture plane, background to foreground, alternates between energy and mass revealing Dean's sublime world. The luminosity of the painting comes from the light that is bounced thru the color as it reflects off the white ground. The hand drawn edges defining the forms, quiver as the eye moves back and forth from soft to hard. The strict geometry is both compromised and enhanced by the irregularity of the line.

Yes these are paintings of great humility that speak of a child-like wonder and profound acceptance of a rich and rewarding life.


**Charles Parson, Sculpture**

The Museum of Friends is honored to present a variety of sculpture by Colorado sculptor Charles Parson. The past 10 years Charles has been developing a virtual cornucopia in the form of an out-door sculpture garden known locally as Sisu in Gardner Co. Seen against the backdrop of the Sangre de Cristo Mts., Charles has located numerous large scale works that both mimic and yet set apart the mountains in relationship to humans, a scale he has imbued with grace and deep humility.

Parson’s current sculptural focus is Badito Cone, a cone shaped out-crop of rock at the entrance to Huerfano valley he finds “subtle” but “enthralling…and made me contemplate things” which he maintains is a key component of artistic experience. “I start out with a very traditional way of working, site observation, then as I think and investigate and find out more what makes it resonate with me personally, I, little by little abstract it into what I consider a more universal language but with my own personal vocabulary.”

In the new work on exhibit, one can see the beginnings of the Badito Cone development with it’s focus on the symbolic use of the triangle and the circle. The triangle seems to reference the massive base of the cone and the circle seems to include everything within it’s sphere. One is struck by the range of materials Parson combines, steel, aluminum, plastic, glass, sand, rock, in each piece from massive and bold to the subtlest concern with color and fleeting light. Parson fusses with an almost invisible precision adjusting the many nuts and bolts to achieve a precise balance of his materials. This work is profoundly human in scale as it populates the gallery adding warmth and color.

At the core of his drawings, prints, sculptures, stage designs, performance art and teaching is a desire to share his passions and the techniques behind them. He’s been a fixture as an instructor at numerous Colorado institutions including the Rocky Mountains College of Art and Design, Metropolitan State College, University of Denver, Regis University and Community College of Denver. In 2014 Parson will present “still in Centered Point” a show of sculpture to fill about half the 24,000 sq. ft. exhibition space at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.
Exhibitions: Dia de los Muertos, November 2nd thru December 15

Dia de los Muertos, (The Day of the Dead) first annual Parade and Dance Celebration is being planned for Saturday November 2nd in Walsenburg and the Museum of Friends. Collaborators will include all youth groups, artists and educators and general public. The second planning meeting for adults will be on Friday, October 11th at the Museum of Friends at 600 Main Street at noon. An exhibition is being assembled with Day of the Dead objects and related art to be on view at MOF the last week of October through Thanksgiving. If you have any interesting objects or art that relates to this subject matter and would like to lend the art or objects for exhibit, please contact Maria at 738-2858. Art workshops are being planned in Gardner and La Veta to create masks, sculptures and other interesting parade materials. The youth workshops at MOF will be on the next 4 Fridays at 1 pm, at 600 Main Street until 3 pm. School groups are invited to attend for a School Tour program Tuesday, Wednesdays or Thursday; the tour is designed according to grade level and curriculum goals, with emphasis the Day of the Dead celebration/collaboration. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help realize this exciting initiative

Programs:

Ione Glumac local artist and instructor to teach new adult class at the Museum of Friends

Ione Glumac, local Walsenburg artist will be presenting a series of 6 classes "How to Paint What You See" at the Museum of Friends on Main Street at 6th. The first class will be August 20th, followed by classes on August 27th, September 3rd, 10th, and September 17th and 24th. There will be two sessions, beginning on Tuesdays, from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM and 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. The curriculum will include:

- Basic Landscape (rocks, trees, mountains, grasses, etc.)
- How to Paint Aspen Trees
- Colors and how to use them
Brushwork and other tools including knives, sponges, etc.

Students will be provided a list of materials required for the course and the fee for each class is $10. Ms. Glumac was included in the “Water is Gold” exhibition last spring at MOF and due to the warm reception of her work, she has agreed to present this class to the Huerfano County public. Ms. Glumac has exhibited her work throughout the region including the US Olympic Center, the Colorado Springs Airport, Mineral Palace Art Gallery in Pueblo, Space Gallery in La Veta, and the Walsenburg Golf Club. Ms. Glumac's works are available for commission and for sale. She currently has a display of wildlife and landscape paintings at the La Plaza Inn in Walsenburg.

Art Thrift and Gift Shop opens December 15th
Made in Walsenburg

MOF continues to listen to its audience to improve the quality of programming. “Made in Walsenburg” the new Art Thrift and Gift Shop will address the need for economic development, tourist activities, and demonstrate how to better understand and appreciate: cultural diversity. Goods will be available to purchase created by local artisans, and workshops will be offered to illustrate how the crafts are created. This new endeavor of MOF will illustrate how the nonprofit arts and culture industry can improve the quality of life in Walsenburg. The physical space within the first floor gallery was created by architect Bob Martin and built with his students from the E Academy – the Building Construction Campus, in Walsenburg as one of their learning projects.

Upcoming 2014 programs:

January 15th through April 1st, “Large Works from the Permanent Collection” Featuring 2 new major works from the Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center, and paintings from the permanent Collection, with a series of public lectures and programs scheduled for the winter.

May 23rd through September 5, 2014, “Structures of Steel” a Historical Exhibition of Industrial Drawings, Sculptures and Photographs, circa 1897 to 1915, on loan from Pueblo’s Bessemer Historical Society’s SF&I Archives.

October 17th through December 31, 2014 “Immigration and Mining” A National Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Artists’ interpretations on labor, mining, and immigration.
Permanent Collection of Paintings, Sculptures, Prints, Photographs and Hawaiian Exhibition on 2nd Floor

Changing Exhibitions by local and national artists, Public Programs, Special Events, Adult Classes, Children's Art Laboratory, Art Thrift and Gift Shop on 1st Floor

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October 17th through December 31, 2014 “Immigration and Mining” A National Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Artists' interpretations on: labor, mining, and immigration. Call for entry rules.

600 Main Street & 109 East 6th Street
Walsenburg, Colorado 81089
www.museumoffriends.org

Hours: Winter – Wednesday through Saturday Noon to 4:00
Spring, Summer, and Fall – Tuesday through Saturday Noon to 5:00

Admission: $5.00 for Adults, $3.00 for Children
Please call for more information: 719-738-2858