Coe Center®

The Virtual Coe

June 28, 2024

Happy June!

We hope you are cool and hydrated during these hot summer days.

At the Coe, we have been busy with our annual Collection inventory. We implemented a new system, which was exceptionally smooth and quick this year. Inventories are essential for many reasons and can be extremely detailed or as simple as a checklist providing the location of each artwork, ensuring it is not lost. A huge shout out to our volunteers who helped!

We are excited to announce the Coe's two summer internal Jaiden Sanchez (Tohono Chodham/Yaxnee) and Hunter Gutierrez. Hunter is a returning intern. He has worked with the Coe for several years. This year, he assisted with the annual inventory and environmental monitoring of the Collection. He also completed a project on the Coe's Navajo textile pottery within the Coe Collection—stay tuned, his article will appear in July's issue of The Virtual Coe.

Jaiden is cataloging the Collections Spotlight online virtual events. Collections Spotlight was a co-organized program with Fred American Art Magazine created to react to the Covid lockdown. It continued for several years with the creation of twenty-one episodes. Jaiden's work will ultimately give more breadth to the Coe Collections Spotlight website pages for a more enriching visitor experience.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE—the Coe Center is co-hosting an event in the Coe's Project Space building on Wednesday, August 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. We will be sharing more details in the coming weeks. This month's highlights include a Hawaiian basket from the slopes of Kilauea volcano and Wenesia Misquadace's series of birchbark birling. We hope you enjoy reading about these beautiful objects!

—The Coe Center Team

Woven from the Tree of Life

Diane Obomsawin, Anishinaabe - Abenaki, Boston, 1968. Covered palm hoop. 9 ½ x 14 ¼ x 14 ¼ in. | 23 ½ x 36 x 9 in. box. OCAMA. Gift of Ralph T. Coe. 2010.

Learn about the coconut palm, known as the Tree of Life, and its essential role in Polynesian culture—from food and hydration to crafting materials. Explore the extraordinary history of Polynesian weathering, their unique stick charts, and the enduring legacy of their traditional arts.

Discover this Hawaiian Basket

Tradition and Pushing Boundaries

Wenesia Syrs Misquadace (Fond du Lac Band, Chippewa Tribe. Minnesota), Great Lakes), Thundering Sky, 2014. Birch Bark Framed. 32 x 6 ½ x 3 in. 81.2 x 15.3 x 2.5 cm). NA7799. Gift of Wenesia Syrs Misquadace. 2017.

Discover the inspiring journey of Wenesia Syrs Misquadace, an artist from the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe/ Fond Du Lac Band, during her 2017 residency at the Ralph T. Coe Center. Delve into her exploration of traditional birch bark biting techniques and her innovative fusion with contemporary culinary creations. Learn how she blends traditional materials like birchbark with modern cooking stunning canisters and jewelry, and how she inspires others as a metallurgy instructor at the University of Arizona.

Explore Thundering Sky

Insights from Student Curator Julia Gibson

Samuel Thomas' [Cayuga, Haudenosaunee] work has changed over the last several years. He has shifted away from a more traditional style of beading to creating more contemporary artworks that show the evolution of practices and preferences.

His work speaks to notions of community and progress and evokes Indigenous narratives to bring meaning and life behind different works.

Object Information:
Samuel Thomas, (Cayuga, Haudenosaunee), Jerry Rig, 2005, beads on blue velvet, 3 ½ x 3 ½ in. (8.9 x 8.9 cm). Gift of Edward J. Guarino, in memory of Edgar and Josephine Guarino.

The Ralph T. Coe Hands-On Curatorial Program provides an opportunity for high school students to work hands-on with the Coe Collection of over 2,500 works of Indigenous art from around the world. To explore this exhibition further, schedule a visit or explore our webpage!

Save the Date — Taking to the Streets: Indigenous Public Art Interventions

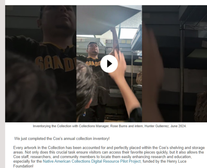
Nani Chacon (Dad and Grunts), *You can't take it with you...so give it all away*, (mural), 2021. 17'1 ½W X 21'x 0.5D in. Commissioned by the Ralph T. Coe Center for the Arts. Generously supported by Steven D. Shafer, Courthouse Family, Brian Rain Gallery, Elmore Art Supplyroute, Kenneth Lemmon Studio, and Martinez Gallery. NA-5333.

How are Native artists reaching audiences outside the museum/gallery/urban sphere? Learn how Art Mobile of New Mexico and Indigenous Direct Action Media Network are bringing Native art to unprecedented. The Ralph T. Coe Center hosts Fred American Art Magazine in hosting this fascinating and important discussion.

When: **August 15 at 10 am**
Where: **Coe Center's Project Space Building at 1550 A Pacheco Street**
Tickets: **Free**

More details coming soon!

Annual Collection Inventory Wrapped Up!



Inventorying the Collection with Collections Manager, Rose Burns and Intern, Hunter Gutierrez. June 2024.

We just completed the Coe's annual collection inventory!

Every artwork in the Collection has been accounted for and perfectly placed within the Coe's shelving and storage system. This process is essential for maintaining the Collection's integrity and ensuring its safety for future use by the Coe staff, researchers, and community members to hurdle them easily enhancing research and education, especially for the Native American Collections Digital Resource Pilot Project, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation!

Activate the Coe Collection!

*As part of our exciting restructuring, we invite your organization or community to participate in the next phase of the Coe Center's journey. We are seeking **Requests for Proposals (RFP)** from those **interested in gifting the expansive collection to federally recognized tribes or 501c3 organizations**, all in the spirit* of continued service.

To Request Further Information:
Email info@coeartscenter.org to request regional packets listing individual items in the collection and for more detailed information.

Help Spread the Word:
Please share the RFP letter and the Coe's contact information with any organizations or communities that may be interested.

Submission Deadline:
Proposals must be submitted by September 9, 2024 to info@coeartscenter.org. No proposals will be accepted after this date. Please include "Restructuring Proposal" in the subject heading.

Selection Process:
A committee of staff and the Coe Board of Directors, will carefully review all proposals, considering alignment with our values, mission, and community impact.
Shortlisted organizations will be invited for further discussions.

Between now and the submission deadline, we welcome any questions you may have.

Read the Official RFP

Schedule Your Visit

Through December 20, 2024, immerse yourself in our extensive collection of more than 2,500 artworks representing Indigenous art from around the world. Scheduling a visit to this interactive journey promises a one-of-a-kind chance to enrich your knowledge and admiration for global diversity.

Reach out to us to arrange your visit—we are excitedly awaiting your arrival!

Call: 505.983.4372
Email: info@coeartscenter.org

"I revisit and bear constantly in mind the objects of my collection to gain new insights. They are not impotent but instruments of passion, with the power to unexpectedly reveal mysteries."

—Ralph T. Coe
Founder, Ralph T. Coe Center for the Arts

Support the Restructuring. Donate to the Coe now.

Ralph T. Coe Center for the Arts
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