

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Exterior of Frederic C. Hamilton Building and Duncan Pavilion nearly complete Exciting new work by American Indian artists on view

DENVER (February 2006) —Duncan Pavilion, a new 6,300-square-foot space above the Denver Art Museum's Schlessman Hall, will be completed by the end of February. The Pavilion will link the Reiman Bridge over 13th Avenue to the existing North Building. The bridge was named in honor of a gift from board trustee Scott Reiman and his wife Virginia. Duncan Pavilion will serve as a gathering area to visitors passing from the new Frederic C. Hamilton Building to the existing one when the new Museum complex opens this fall. The Pavilion includes both indoor and outdoor event space and will be the site for the aluminum hands from the Join Hands for the DAM program. *Shoot Out*, a sculpture by Red Grooms, will be sited on the outdoor deck of the Pavilion as well.

With the exterior of the Hamilton Building to be completed in the next several weeks, much of the construction activity has been occurring within the titanium-clad exterior walls of the new building. The dramatic angular galleries are quickly taking form. The three temporary exhibition galleries on the south end of the building are the furthest along in the construction schedule with work focused on painting, installing finished hardwood floors, and putting up track lighting. Through this winter the inner "art walls"—on which art works are actually hung in the temporary exhibition galleries—are being built. These interior walls (ranging from 10 to 12 feet) are temporary; their flexibility allows the Museum's exhibition designers to create spaces that best complement each exhibition shown in the galleries. Installation teams are using these more completed galleries to fine-tune details. Later this spring, that new expertise will be applied to the remaining galleries, which are currently in the beginning stages of drywall installation.

Works by some of the most exciting American Indian artists of the 1900s have recently been added to the 3rd floor of the North Building in the American Indian galleries. These include three spectacular paintings by Oscar Howe, who is arguably the founder of modernism in American Indian art, and *Trade Canoe for Don Quixote* by Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. In this *Guernica*-inspired painting, Quick-to-See Smith presents her commentary on American wars past and present. Also on view are two watercolors and a gouache by Andrew Tsinahjinnie, an artist whose depictions of the Southwest capture the spirit of Navajo life and the splendor of the landscape. Finally, there is a series of 11 paintings by San Ildefonso artist José Encarnación Peña and *Harvest Dance* by Alfonso Roybal on view.

Following are the Museum's events and exhibitions for February 2006. Unless noted otherwise, admission to the following programs is included with general Museum admission. General admission is free for Colorado residents every Saturday, thanks to citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

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## **Ongoing Exhibitions**

### ***Building Outside the Box: Creating the New Denver Art Museum***

This exhibition about the construction of the Frederic C. Hamilton Building expansion offers visitors an opportunity to learn about the expansion through the stories of those who have worked closely on the project including architects, engineers, builders, and museum staff. Through hands-on activities, audio-visual displays, photographs, and materials from the project, visitors can become familiar with specific challenges and successes of the expansion process.

### ***Blanket Statements***

Navajo weavers have been creating exquisite textiles for more than three centuries. With ever-changing ideas, materials and designs they have enthusiastically and skillfully created a world of beauty for which they have become justly famous. *Blanket Statements* presents a snapshot of a brief moment in that long tradition of creativity through a close examination of 13 textiles woven in the 1980s and early 1990s.

### ***Cheyenne Visions II***

*Cheyenne Visions II* offers a unique perspective on the history, art and contemporary view of the Cheyenne people. Guest-curated by Gordon Yellowman, Cheyenne chief and artist, in collaboration with the Denver Art Museum staff, this compelling exhibit combines Cheyenne artworks in the Museum's collection with 20 spectacular oversized color photographs that reveal the powerful cultural history between Cheyenne people and their art. The exhibit also provides an opportunity for visitors to explore facets of Cheyenne art and history through the words of Cheyenne elders and oral traditions passed down from generation to generation.

### ***Floating Time: An Environment by Tatsuo Miyajima***

In this interactive video installation, the Japanese artist uses computer-controlled electronic numbers to explore the concept of time. The projected numbers count from one to nine at different rates and in different colors, scattering randomly across a platform, the floor and even the bodies of visitors. Miyajima does not use zero because he says it represents an end, and time is never-ending. He is intrigued by the notion that time—like art—is a human invention. "Time cannot exist without human intelligence, and art cannot exist without an audience. Art and time come from people."

### ***Heaven and Home: Chinese Art of the Han Dynasty from the Sze Hong Collection***

During the Han dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220), the Chinese made tomb objects to accompany the deceased into the afterlife. One aspect of this practice prepared for the soul's journey from one world to another, and burial items included mountain-shaped jars depicting a celestial realm inhabited by spirits and mythical creatures. A second aspect of Chinese belief viewed the afterlife as a continuation of earthly existence. Tomb furnishings reproduced household buildings, livestock, and daily provisions. Sculptures of watchdogs and domestic fowl assured animal companionship, while vessels and containers held food offerings and other commodities.

### ***New Classics***

Featuring some of the greatest contemporary pieces from the Museum's American Indian collections including newly acquired paintings by Harry Fonseca and Rick Bartow, this exhibition boasts important works from artists including Emmi Whitehorse, Truman T. Lowe, Linda Haukaas, and Mateo Romero. The variety of artists is wide and the pieces too unique to easily categorize, but all are excellent examples of the thriving American Indian art scene. *New Classics* offers a twist on conventional ideas of American Indian art with artists who express themselves in less "traditional" ways.

## Events & Lectures

*Photographs in Contemporary Vietnam* (Asian art lecture)

**Wednesday, February 15, 2006, noon**

**Denver Athletic Club, 1325 Glenarm Pl., Denver**

Speaker Chuck Forsman is a professor of fine arts at the University of Colorado and a painter of contemporary Western landscapes. Free for Asian Art Association members, \$7 Museum members, students and teachers; \$10 for others. \$3 parking at DAC with lecture voucher. Reservations recommended: 720-913-0040.

Sponsored by the Asian Art Association, a Denver Art Museum support group.

*Inuit Art: Survival of a Culture Through Its Art* (Native Arts lecture)

**Wednesday, February 15, 2006, 6:30 p.m.**

Collector Sam Wagonfeld will discuss Inuit art. Free for Douglas Society members and students with ID, \$7 Museum members, \$10 others. For location and reservations (required): call 720-913-0165. Sponsored by the Douglas Society, a Denver Art Museum support group.

## Family Activities

In addition to special exhibitions, classes and events, the Museum offers a variety of family-friendly activities everyday.

*Note: Art Stops are on hiatus until after the grand opening of the Hamilton Building in fall 2006.*

- The **Just for Fun Family Center** is available year-round on weekends during normal Museum hours. Families and kids can relax and learn new things as the Center's seven play stations encourage further exploration in the galleries. Available weekends; daily during school breaks.
- Families can enjoy different gallery-themed **Family Backpacks**, filled with games and hands-on activities, every weekend. Three bilingual (English and Spanish) backpacks are available: *Southwest Saints*, *Lots of Pots* and *3-4-5*. Free checkout with ID. Available weekends; daily during school breaks.
- A host of other activities—including the **Kids Corner**, **Eye Spy** games, and the **Discovery Library**—are available everyday.

## Tours

*Tours meet in the 1st-floor elevator lobby unless otherwise indicated; no reservations required.*

*Note: Nooner Tours and European & American Art Tours are currently not available*

- **Choice Tours** allow viewers to sample the best of the Museum's collection on a 45-minute tour Tuesdays through Sundays at 1:30 p.m., with an additional 11 a.m. tour on Saturdays.
- **Building Outside the Box** tours are available Thursdays and Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.  
*Note: Additional tours on Tuesday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. will begin in February. Check the Museum's website at [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org) for the most up-to-date information.*
- **Special Request Tours** are private one-hour tours for organizations or groups and include Choice Tours and *Building Outside the Box*. Minimum of 6 people. Call 720-913-0075 for prices or reservations.
- **Group sales** are available for groups of 10 or more individuals. They will receive a discounted rate plus one free ticket for special exhibitions or general admissions. Reservations must be made two weeks prior to arrival. Call 720-865-5170 for information or reservations.
- **Handicap accessible** entrances are located both on 14th Avenue and on Acoma Plaza, and there are wheelchair accessible elevators, restrooms, and drinking fountains at the Denver Art Museum. Place free wheelchair reservations by calling in advance, or request one upon arrival. American Sign Language interpreters are available for all tours, classes, and lectures with prior notice. Please call one week in advance for special assistance: 720-865-5170 or TDD/TTY 720-865-5003.

The Denver Art Museum is located in downtown Denver on 13th Avenue between Broadway and Bannock. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m.; closed Mondays and most major holidays. The Museum is open late on Wednesdays. Special pricing may apply to featured exhibitions. General Museum admission is free for children 12 and under and Museum members, \$6 for seniors 65+, students 13 and older and college students with I.D., \$8 for adults. General admission is free for Colorado residents every Saturday, thanks to the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). The Cultural Complex Garage is open; enter from Broadway between 13th and 12th Avenues. Additional parking lots and meters surround the Museum. Or take the bus: call RTD at 303-299-6000 for more information. Adaptive/interpretive services are available with one week's notice by calling 720-865-5170; TTY 720-865-5003. For more information, call 720-865-5000 or visit the Museum's website at [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org). For information in Spanish, call 720-913-0169.

**For more information or for photos or images to accompany a story, please contact the Museum's Public Relations Department at 720-913-0000 or visit the online Press Office at [www.denverartmuseum.org/pressoffice](http://www.denverartmuseum.org/pressoffice).**

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