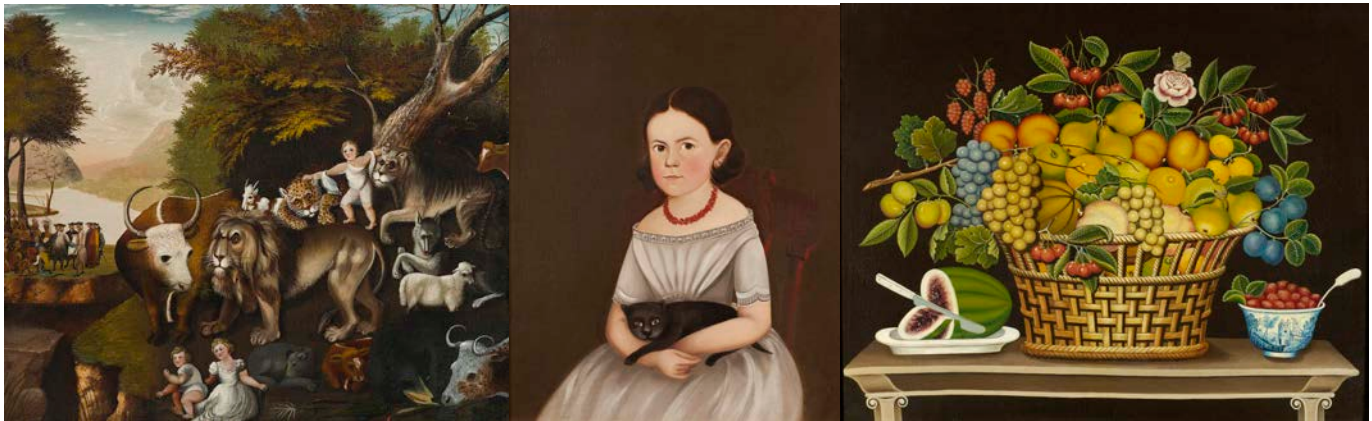


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A SHARED LEGACY: FOLK ART IN AMERICA OPENS AT NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART THIS NOVEMBER

According to *The New York Times*, the artworks in the exhibition “evoke a world and way of life that modernity has eclipsed, and yet they feel as fresh and lively as anything you might desire in the art of today.”



Reno, Nev. – This holiday season the Nevada Museum of Art welcomes works by nineteenth-century rural American artists. *A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America* examines how makers, craftspeople, and painters created fine objects that exemplified the breadth of American creative expression during a period of enormous political, social and cultural change in the United States. Folk art is not typically made by professionally-trained artists, and does not attempt to emulate art made in urban centers by classically-trained artists. Rather, the genre reflects nineteenth-century tastes, social practices, economics, and cultural values of the rural places and people for whom it was made. *A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America* opens November 19 and will remain on view through January 22, 2017 at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery located at 160 West Liberty Street in downtown Reno.

Consisting of more than 60 works, *A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America* showcases rare and fine portraits; vivid still life and landscapes; figurative and animal sculptures; whimsical trade signs; furniture and other household objects from artists living across New England, the Midwest, the Mid-Atlantic and the South between 1800 and 1925. Highlights include paintings by revered portrait artists Ammi Phillips and John Brewster, Jr.; *The Peaceable Kingdom* by Edward Hicks; carousel animals; and distinctive examples of fine furnishings from the German-American community.

Rooted in family as well as preservation of personal and cultural identity, art was one means by which Americans living far from their places of origin maintained a bond to the lives they had known. As communities were established and became prosperous, many people sought tangible evidence of their success. In Eastern cities, the well-to-do patronized trained artists who had studied at home or abroad. However, to meet the demand of customers living far from urban centers, self-taught or minimally trained artists arose to create works for customers or for their own pleasure. A need for art in outlying areas fostered the emergence of several generations of artists who were responsible for a pivotal development in the history of American art.

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Explore *Folk Art in America* through these educational and entertaining offerings:

TALK: NEITHER COMMON NOR EVERYDAY: THE GORDON FOLK ART COLLECTION

Saturday, November 19 | 2 pm – 3:30 pm

Guest curator of *A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America*, Richard Miller, examines the aesthetic and meaning of the large body of work that has come to be known as American Folk Art. The paintings, sculpture, and furniture in the Gordon collection were made between 1800 and 1920—years that bookend a period of rapid and dramatic change in the United States. The art in this exhibition represents a period that may feel distant, but these objects that held special meaning for Americans show that their aspirations were little different from ours today: celebration of family, pride in heritage, and leaving some evidence of our lives and accomplishments after us. \$12 | \$8 Museum members | \$5 students

ART BITE: DOUG GROVES ON CRAFT AND TRADITION OF THE NEVADA BUCKAROO

Friday, December 2 | 2 pm – 3:30 pm

Recipient of the Nevada Governor’s Arts Award and the Nevada Heritage Award, Great Basin buckaroo and braider Doug Groves makes finely crafted artisan horse gear. Learning rawhide braiding from peers in the bunkhouse and beyond, he now passes on the skills and techniques for turning rawhide into beautiful and functional gear. Groves will discuss the history of rawhide, its traditional uses as horse gear, and how ranching history is passed on with this skill through stories and folklore. *Support for the Art Bite series comes from Nevada Arts Council and Nevada Humanities.* \$10 | FREE Museum members

TALK: COLLECTOR BARBARA R. GORDON ON A SHARED LEGACY

Saturday, December 3 | 2 pm – 3 pm

Collector Barbara R Gordon shares her journey as a collector navigating the wonderfully intuitive and accessible designs, colors and shapes that make up American Folk Art. From her first purchase of a particularly elegant birdhouse with a green painted tin roof, plucked from a row of items in a country field, to her triumphant and long awaited acquisition of Edward Hicks’s masterpiece, *The Peaceable Kingdom*, Gordon discusses the thrill of the hunt and the passion and discipline it takes to build a world class collection. \$12 | \$8 Museum members | \$5 students

ART BITE: ERIC FREYER ON RAW WOOD AND CRAFT

Friday, December 9 | noon

Local wood worker Eric Freyer discusses the process behind creating studio furniture and the importance of craft and tradition in the community. Freyer believes that wood is one of nature's riches gifts. It can be as light and luminescent as water or as dense and opaque as stone. Sculpted by a craftsman, wood expresses and inspires emotion by transcending its function to touch the soul. *Support for the Art Bite series comes from Nevada Arts Council and Nevada Humanities.* \$10 | FREE Museum members

ART BITE: TOYS AND TRADITION WITH THE NEVADA WOODCHUCKS

Friday, December 16 | noon

Woodchucks President and avid woodworker Rick Barbieri brings a lively discussion of toys, tools and community. The Nevada Woodchucks are dedicated to teaching the skills of woodworking to Northern Nevada. Through the sharing of ideas, accomplishments, techniques and woodworking projects, this organization is keeping traditional craft alive and sharing the joy of handmade toys with children in the community. *Support for the Art Bite series comes from Nevada Arts Council and Nevada Humanities.* \$10 | FREE Museum members

ART BITE: CHRISTINA BARR ON THE TIES THAT BIND: HOW TRADITIONAL ARTS BRING US TOGETHER

Friday, January 6 | noon

Folklorist and Nevada Humanities Director Christina Barr has documented traditional art forms, communities, and cultural issues around North America and abroad. She shares this work through the production of public programs, festivals, exhibitions, presentations, scholarly and media projects, and community based cultural work. Building on the themes in *A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America* and from her own original fieldwork, she’ll share how traditional arts and culture bring people together and strengthen communities. *Support for the Art Bite series comes from Nevada Arts Council and Nevada Humanities.* \$10 | FREE Museum members

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THE FOLK & THE LORE: THE MAKERS

Saturday January 7, 2017 | 5 pm – 8:30 pm

In celebration of *Folk Art in America*, *The Folk & the Lore* presents an evening of storytelling and films based on “The Makers - The Stories of Craft, Creativity, and Skill.” From the creative mind of Jessi LeMay comes the storytelling and narrative filmmaking project *The Folk & the Lore*. This multimedia project aims to collect, archive, and tell stories from Reno and throughout the region through photography, short films, and live storytelling events that will be held regularly at the Nevada Museum of Art. Together, we believe that when you know your neighbor’s story, not only do you feel more connected to your community, but those stories become part of your own. Doors open at 5pm for social hour and chez louie cash bar. Stories begin at 6pm. \$12 | \$8 Museum members | \$5 students

ART BITE: WILD WOMAN KATHERINE CASE ON LINOLEUM-CUT PRINTMAKING

Friday, January 20 | noon

In this art bite, Katherine Case converses about artistic traditions, her work in the community and the California and Nevada artists and crafts(wo)men that inspire her. At Meridian Press, up the big hill from the Truckee River and in the shadow of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Case carves linoleum blocks, hand-sets metal type and prints on an antique SP-15 Vandercook proof press. *Support for the Art Bite series comes from Nevada Arts Council and Nevada Humanities.* \$10 | FREE Museum members

A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America will be on view November 19 through January 22, 2017 at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery located at 160 West Liberty Street in downtown Reno’s Liberty District. The exhibition is drawn from the Barbara L. Gordon Collection and is organized and circulated by Art Services International, Alexandria, Virginia.

Lead sponsorship for A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America by The Bretzlaff Foundation. Major sponsorship by Clark/Sullivan Construction; Eldorado Resorts, Inc.; Sandy Raffealli, Porsche of Reno. Supporting sponsorship by Carol Ann and John Badwick; Blanchard, Krasner & French; Irene Drews in memory of J. George Drews; and Whittier Trust Company of Nevada. Media sponsorship by Reno-Tahoe International Airport; and Reno Tahoe USA.

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About Nevada Museum of Art

www.nevadaart.org

The Nevada Museum of Art is a museum of ideas. The only accredited art museum in the state, it is a private, non-profit organization supported by the generosity of its membership as well as by sponsorships and grants. Through creative programming and scholarship, the Museum provides the opportunity for people to encounter, engage and enjoy a diversity of art experiences. The Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm, late on Thursdays until 8 pm, and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and national holidays. Admission is FREE for members, \$10 General Admission, \$8 Student / Senior, \$1 children 6 to 12 years and free for children 5 and under. Annual Museum Membership starts at just \$30.

About Art Services International

<http://www.asiexhibitions.org>

Art Services International is a nonprofit educational institution that organizes touring art exhibitions of the highest quality for museums worldwide, accompanied by scholarly all-color catalogues. These exhibitions include paintings, drawings, sculpture, and decorative arts that range from the art of the ancient world to works of the Old Masters, and continue through to the contemporary period. ASI exhibitions are drawn from museums and private collections internationally, and are hosted by museums throughout North America and Europe. ASI shares with the hosting museums a commitment to enhancing the appreciation of art.

IMAGE CAPTIONS: (1) Attributed to Edward Hicks, American, 1780–1849, *The Peaceable Kingdom with the Leopard of Serenity*, 1835–40, oil on canvas, painted in Newtown, Pennsylvania Barbara L. Gordon Collection (2) Artist unknown, *Girl with Cat*, ca. 1845–50, oil on canvas, painted in New England, Barbara L. Gordon Collection (3) Artist unknown, *Still Life with Basket of Fruit*, 1830–50, oil on canvas, probably painted in New England, Barbara L. Gordon Collection.