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'HANS MEYER-KASSEL: ARTIST OF NEVADA' SHOWCASES NORTHERN NEVADA AND BEYOND THROUGH IMPRESSIONISTIC PAINTINGS

German-born artist Hans Meyer-Kassel (1872-1952) aimed to capture the scenic beauty and intimate portraits of the people he met and places he visited. A comprehensive survey of this treasured artist's work will be on view February 24 – September 2, 2018, at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno.



Reno, Nev. (January 31, 2018) – The paintings of German émigré artist Hans Meyer-Kassel (1872-1952) have hung in the castles of kings and the homes of presidents. Decades after his death, his artwork can be found in state capitols, university campuses, historical societies, courthouses, government buildings and museums across the United States and Europe. His artwork lives in archives, books, magazines and even on a United States postage stamp—as well as in the homes of scores of Nevada families. Now, for the first time ever, a comprehensive survey of this prolific but under-appreciated artist's work will be presented for the public. *Hans Meyer-Kassel: Artist of Nevada* will be on view February 24 through September 2 at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery in downtown Reno, Nevada. A major publication and significant regional events during the exhibition celebrate Meyer-Kassel's legacy.

Classically trained as a painter at the University of Munich in his native Germany, Meyer-Kassel immigrated to the United States at the end of World War I to escape the post-war tumult. He endured the Great Depression in New York City, but after having exhibited his work in Pasadena, California in 1935, he became enamored with the American West. Within a year, he and his wife, Maria, moved to Reno, later relocating to Carson City, eventually settling in Genoa, where he worked from his small studio at the base of the Carson Range.

Hans Meyer-Kassel: Artist of Nevada is co-curated by longtime Reno art specialist Jack Bacon and Ann M. Wolfe, Andrea and John C. Deane Family Senior Curator and Deputy Director at the Nevada Museum of Art. A major book on the artist also accompanies the exhibition.

“Quietly, for over six decades, hundreds of paintings have lovingly hung on the walls of homes throughout the northern Nevada region,” said Bacon. “When the call went out for a grand exhibition at the Nevada Museum of Art, all of the owners, unanimously and enthusiastically, made their treasures available for the project.”

Meyer-Kassel loved Nevada from the time of his first visit, and over two decades he built his reputation as one of the most prolific and successful artists in the region. He painted public murals, was commissioned to make portraits, and was even hired to paint and restore numerous gubernatorial portraits in both Nevada and California. One such portrait will be on loan for the exhibition from Nevada's State Capitol. While his primary interest was portraiture, he also became known for his vividly colored floral still lifes, and his depictions of Nevada's vast desert expanses, mountains, river valleys, and cloud-filled skies. Although Meyer-Kassel was German by birth, American by law and Nevadan by choice, he was firmly embraced, adopted and celebrated as a Nevada artist.

"From the Ruby Mountains to Lake Tahoe, and everything in between, Meyer-Kassel aimed to capture the scenic beauty of his adopted home. His landscape paintings are recognizable and familiar to viewers even today and reinforce his place as a respected and treasured artist of Nevada," Wolfe said.

A 204-page publication—the first major book on Meyer-Kassel—published by Jack Bacon & Company in association with the Nevada Museum of Art accompanies the exhibition. The primary essay is authored by longtime Nevada historian Guy Clifton, with a foreword by Ann M. Wolfe. The book includes more than 100 full-color plates and will be available for purchase in the Museum Shop and other select locations throughout the region. Jack Bacon has published numerous books since 1983, including: *Jack Johnson vs. James Jeffries "The Fight of the Century," The Art of Lyle V. Ball, Dempsey in Nevada, Preserving Traces of the Great Basin Indians*, and many others.

To further honor the legacy of Hans Meyer-Kassel, the Board of Directors of Douglas County Historical Society recently approved the placement of a monument in Meyer-Kassel's memory outside the Genoa Courthouse Museum. A monument dedication ceremony will take place in Genoa on Saturday, May 19. Throughout the exhibition run, a number of additional public and educational programs will take place at the Nevada Museum of Art, and throughout northern Nevada. For a complete listing, visit the [exhibition webpage](#).

Hans Meyer-Kassel: Artist of Nevada features more than 70 paintings, with additional drawings, photographs, ephemera and artifacts drawn from private and institutional collections. The exhibition will be on view February 24 through September 2, 2018, 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 Reno, Nevada.

Hans Meyer-Kassel: Artist of Nevada was made possible by the generosity of these sponsors: **Sponsors:** Anonymous; Nevada Arts Council; The Private Bank by Nevada State Bank; Sandy Raffealli/Porsche of Reno; Volunteers in Art of the Nevada Museum of Art; Edgar F. Kleiner; **Supporting Sponsors:** Anonymous; Jenny and Garrett Sutton | Corporate Direct, Inc.; **Lead Media Sponsor:** Sierra Nevada Media Group; **Media Sponsors:** *Getaway Reno-Tahoe*; *Nevada Magazine*; Reno-Tahoe International Airport; and *Tahoe Quarterly*.

To download high-resolution press images for editorial use, as well as the fact sheet and publication, please follow this link: <http://bit.ly/HMKmedia>.

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The Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery is the only art museum in Nevada accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). A private, nonprofit organization founded in 1931, the Reno-based institution is supported by its membership as well as sponsorships, gifts and grants. Through its permanent collections, original exhibitions and programming, and E.L. Cord Museum School, the Nevada Museum of Art provides meaningful opportunities for people to engage with a range of art and education experiences. The Museum's **Center for Art + Environment** is an internationally-recognized research center dedicated to supporting the practice, study, and awareness of creative interactions between people and their environments. The Center houses unique archive materials from more than 1,000 artists working on all seven continents, including Cape Farewell, Michael Heizer, Walter de Maria, Lita Albuquerque, Burning Man, the Center for Land Use Interpretation, Ugo Rondinone, and Trevor Paglen. Learn more at nevadaart.org.

Header Image Captions: Untitled (lilacs), 1949. Pastel on board, 25 x 29 ½ inches. Collection of the Nevada Museum of Art, Promised Gift of Edgar F. and Ella C. Kleiner; Carson Valley in Spring, 1952. Pastel on board, 21 x 25 inches. Nevada Historical Society, Gift of H. William Brooks; Hans Meyer-Kassel, Self-portrait, circa 1950. Pastel on board, 20 x 16 inches. Nevada Historical Society, Gift of H. William Brooks.