



ALLEN TRUE'S *West*

EXHIBITION BIOS



THOMAS SMITH

Director of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art, Denver Art Museum

Thomas Smith joined the Denver Art Museum as the associate curator of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art in late 2008 and became director in May of 2009. Prior to coming to the DAM, Smith was curator of Art of the American West at the Tucson Museum of Art. He also held earlier positions at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, C.M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West and the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. At the Tucson Museum of Art, Smith helped to renovate gallery space and organized *A Place of Refuge: Maynard Dixon's Arizona*, which was the largest presentation of the artist's work to date. Smith received his B.F.A. from Oklahoma Christian University and completed his master's in art history from the University of

Oklahoma. In charge of programs and exhibitions for the Petrie Institute of Western American Art at the Museum, Smith has successfully planned and reopened the seventh floor Western art galleries focused on early Western art.



PETER H. HASSRICK

Director Emeritus of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art, Denver Art Museum

Peter H. Hassrick, a leading scholar in the field of Western American art, was previously involved with the organization of this exhibition while serving as the director of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art at the Denver Art Museum before retiring in April of 2009. The Institute was established in 2001, and Hassrick joined the Museum as its director in 2005. With more than 35 years of experience in the field of Western American art, Hassrick helped lead the research and refinement of the Denver Art Museum's Western American art collections, exhibitions, programs and publications. Under Hassrick's leadership, the Institute prominently featured its collection on the second floor of the Museum's new Frederic C. Hamilton Building.

Before coming to Denver, Hassrick focused his career on writing and acting as an independent American art scholar specializing in art of the American West. He is the Founding Director Emeritus of the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla. He was also the founding director of The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, N.M., and was the director of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyo., for 20 years.

Hassrick was born in Philadelphia and raised in Denver. He earned a B.A. in history from the University of Colorado and a M.A. in art history from the University of Denver, with a concentration in 19th-century and early 20th-century American art. Hassrick's devotion to the history and art of the American West has inspired numerous exhibitions, lectures, publications and a television documentary on Remington produced by The Metropolitan Museum of Art.



ALISA ZAHLLER

Associate Curator of Decorative and Fine Arts, Colorado Historical Society

Alisa Zahller is the Associate Curator of Decorative and Fine Arts at the Colorado Historical Society (CHS). A Colorado native, Zahller holds a B.A. in art history and photography from the University of Northern Colorado and an M.A. in art history and museum studies from the University of Denver. Employed by the CHS since 1999 and at the Denver Art Museum five years prior to that, she has also taught at a local community college and given presentations at many public forums. Zahller curated *The Italians of Denver* exhibit at the Colorado History Museum, developed a substantial research archive on Italians and Italian Americans in Colorado and wrote and published the companion book to the exhibit.

Responsible for the acquisition and oversight of the intellectual control and documentation of artifacts in the CHS Decorative and Fine Arts collection, Zahller has also developed, served as project manager for and implemented exhibits including *Uncovering the Exceptional: A Colorado Carver's View* (June 2006/2007), *Music Makers* (2003) and *QuiltSpeak: Stories in the Stitches* (2001/2002). Work with the Decorative and Fine Arts collection and special projects including exhibitions has resulted in the publication of articles including "The Gaccetta Family," *Andiamo! Colorado's Italian Community Newspaper*, May/June 2007; "Invention from Necessity," *Colorado History Now*, February 2005; "The Clio Club," *Colorado History Now*, August 2003 and "Preserving History along the Burlington," *Colorado History Now*, July 2001.



JULIE ANDERIES

Allen True's West Exhibition Coordinator

Julie Anderies is the primary coordinator for the *Allen True's West* exhibit and responsible for the research, writing and design of the Denver Public Library's exhibit on True's early career as an illustrator. Anderies has extensive experience in fine arts exhibition development and management. A freelance contractor, she has worked on projects for the Art Students League, Salon D'Arts, Very Special Arts Colorado, the Colorado Historical Society and the Museo de las Americas. Anderies received her master's degree in art history from the University of Denver. Her primary field of research is Latin America, Colorado and New Mexico art history. She taught Latin American Art History at Colorado State University, researched and catalogued portions of the *Italians in Colorado* exhibit and

conducts primary research for family biographies displayed at the Colorado Historical Society.

Anderies, a Colorado native, has been involved in the community for years. She is one of two founding board members of Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts, served on the Board of Directors of KUVO during its foundational years and now serves as President on the DU ART! Board of Directors at the University of Denver.



JIM KROLL

Manager of Western History and Genealogy, Denver Public Library

James Kroll has served as the Manager of Western History and Genealogy Department at the Denver Public Library since 1999. He also served as the Manager of the Humanities ('88-'94) and the General Reference and Nonfiction ('95-'99) departments. He has a B.A. in English from Gannon University, Master of Science in Theatre History and Literature from the University of Denver and a Master of Library Science from Emporia State University.

Jim serves on the board of Historic Denver and is a graduate student in the history program at the University of Colorado, Denver.