



NEWS RELEASE

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WILD SPACES, OPEN SEASONS

Hunting and Fishing in American Art



The First Major Exhibition to Explore Hunting and Fishing in American Art from the Beginning of the Nineteenth Century through the 1940s

(Omaha, NE) – *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons: Hunting and Fishing in American Art*, on view at Joslyn Art Museum February 12 through May 7, encompasses a wide variety of portraits, landscapes, still lifes, and genre scenes, including iconic works by Thomas Cole, Thomas Eakins, Paul Manship, and John Singer Sargent, as well as pictures by artists who specialized “in the field,” such as Charles Deas, Alfred Jacob Miller, William T. Ranney, and Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait. The exhibition also sheds new light on modernist studies of sporting subjects by Arthur Dove, Marsden Hartley, and Max Weber. Together, the 64 works in the exhibition illuminate changing ideas about community, environment, national identity, landscape, and wildlife, offering compelling insights into one of our most familiar shared adventures.

Wild Spaces, Open Seasons was organized by the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Joslyn Art Museum, Shelburne Museum, and Amon Carter Museum of American Art. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

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Hunting and Fishing in American Art at Joslyn Art Museum

While hunting and fishing may seem to be of interest primarily to sportsmen and outdoor adventurers, depictions of hunters and anglers in American art – often informed by the artists' own experiences of outdoor life – serve a greater purpose than the commemoration of the hunt. The exhibition's six themes reveal the rich connection of these outdoor activities to all aspects of American history, from changing social and economic concerns to personal and political subjects. Images of outdoor sport as a leisurely pursuit of the middle and upper classes contrast with portrayals of hunters hard at work to feed their families. The hazards of outdoor adventure are dramatized in riveting scenes of danger and uncertainty, from the thunder of a buffalo hunt to an attack by wounded quarry. Other works offer less literal descriptions, trading on enduring mythological associations of the hunt, while the theme of the vanishing wilderness and the gradual transformation of a young nation to an industrial power runs throughout the exhibition. *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons* is organized into six thematic groupings:

Leisurely Pursuits

Hunting and fishing emerged as middle class pastimes in the nineteenth century, and frontier myths still fed the image of the continent's limitless resources. Magazines such as *Forest and Stream* and *American Angler* emerged in the 1870s and 1880s to serve the burgeoning number of sportsmen and women, yet the late nineteenth century also saw the rise of laws aimed at protecting a diminishing supply of game.

Livelihoods – At the beginning of the nineteenth century, most Americans who hunted did so out of need, but the expansion of agriculture gradually made hunting for the purpose of sustenance virtually obsolete. Still, the fur trade and commercial fishing also generated income, and the paintings in this section explore the ways in which hunting and fishing became a source of financial reward.

Communing with Nature – By 1820, westward expansion, industrialization, urbanization, and the dawn of a national political and economic system were altering the traditional experiences of local life. Americans were losing not only their close-knit communities, but also their immediate contact with the wilderness. Responding to these changes, people turned to the land as a means of cherishing the nation's identity as well as celebrating the social aspects of experiencing nature together.

Perils – Suspense-filled and often sublime depictions of close calls, tight spots, and struggles to the death enjoyed great popularity in American art during the second half of the 1800s. As the country moved toward modernity, many Americans romanticized a past that celebrated the perils brave hunters might face in the often unforgiving wilderness.

Myth & Metaphor – Mythological images of the hunt in America abound, including depictions of the pursuit of love, spiritual and religious narratives, and allusions to mortality. Hunting images created in a metaphoric guise reflected an understanding of Classical mythology that associated American society with the great civilizations of the past.

Trophies – For the sportsman, the spoils of the hunt were symbols of masculinity, mortality, and nostalgia. To the artist, the desire for a trophy painting gave new meaning to the traditional still life, known as *trompe l'oeil*, or "fool the eye." Prized for their cleverness and ability to test the limits of perception, *trompe l'oeil* still lifes memorialized the hunt for a growing class of sportsmen.

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Hunting and Fishing in American Art at Joslyn Art Museum

Exhibition Catalogue

Wild Spaces, Open Seasons is accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue edited by Kevin Sharp, Linda W. and S. Herbert Rhea Director of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens (Memphis, TN), with an introduction by author Stephen J. Bodio and essays by four American museum curators. The publication is volume 27 in the Charles M. Russell Center Series on Art and Photography of the American West (general editor B. Byron Price; University of Oklahoma Press: Norman). \$45 Hardcover (Member price: \$40.50); \$29.95 Softcover (Member price: \$26.96)



Exhibition Tickets and Tours

Wild Spaces, Open Seasons is open to the public February 12 through May 7, 2017.

Wild Spaces, Open Seasons is a ticketed exhibition. Joslyn members see it first and see it free! \$10 for general public adults; members, youth ages 17 and younger, and college students with ID are free. Special Thursday pricing (4–8 pm): \$5 for general public adults. All visitors, including members, must obtain a ticket at the admissions desk for entrance to the exhibition. Programs with visits to the exhibition will be priced accordingly for general public adults. Docent-guided tours of the exhibition are offered weekly (ticket pricing applies; view the calendar of events at www.joslyn.org for tour offerings).

Exhibition Mobile Tour

Free Wi-Fi is available in all Joslyn galleries. Guests may use their own web-enabled mobile device or borrow one of Joslyn's to access the dual language *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons* mobile tour. Dial (402) 881-3601 for English or (402) 972-4031 for Spanish; or visit www.joslyn.org > Education > Multimedia; or scan the QR code at the entrance to the exhibition. Presented by Joslyn and OnCell with special thanks to 91.5 KIOS FM.

Exhibition Programs & Events

Saturday, February 11

Members Preview Day & Evening Event

Private Preview Day; 10 am–4 pm

Every ticketed special exhibition at Joslyn opens first and exclusively for members. The members preview day for *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons* is Saturday, February 11. From 10 am to 4 pm, members show their membership card at the admissions desk for tickets to the exhibition on preview day (reservations not required during the day). At 2 pm and 2:40 pm, Toby Jurovics, Chief Curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art, will present talks for members in the exhibition galleries. Each talk is limited to 30 people on a first come, first served basis (participants will be asked to sign up upon arrival on February 11).

Lecture & Reception; 6–8 pm

On Saturday evening, February 11, members are invited to a private discussion and reception celebrating *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons*. At 6 pm, Margaret C. Adler, Associate Curator at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art (Fort Worth, TX), will provide an introduction to *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons* in the Witherspoon Concert Hall. Adler's essay "Sacred Rites, Vengeful Goddesses, and Tall Tales" appears in the exhibition catalogue. The presentation will be followed by exhibition viewing, complimentary light hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar in the fountain court. An optional, paid dinner service, Dine at Joslyn, is offered to Joslyn members the night of the preview from 5:30–7:30 pm. Call (402) 661-3842 by February 4 for dinner reservations.

To inquire about joining Joslyn and/or attending this preview, call the membership department at (402) 661-3858.

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Hunting and Fishing in American Art at Joslyn Art Museum

Friday, February 17; 7-11 pm

WILD! A Drag & Dance Event

Ages 21 and over. Free for Joslyn members; \$10 General public adults (includes exhibition ticket). Cash bar.

#JoslynWILD

Joslyn Art Museum transforms fine art into ferocious camp with an animal-themed drag show and dance party celebrating *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons: Hunting and Fishing in American Art*. The call of the wild begins with 7 pm exhibition viewing and cocktails. Joslyn's Café Durham will be open, offering small plate selections for purchase throughout the evening. Meet representatives from our spotlight non-profit, The Nature Conservancy, and learn how you can help restore and protect Nebraska's grasslands and rivers.

At 8 pm, drag entertainers prowl the stage showing off their most fierce glitz and glam; emcee is Joe DeSanti and featured drag entertainers are Tharin Crase, Destiny, Giselle Jacobs, Sophia Kennedy, Veronica Kennedy, Aubrey Savage, and Matthew Steele. Following the runway show, all party animals take to the dance floor for a roaring good time with lowercase sounds' Ben Jones and Très Johnson. Ben plays deep, tech, and progressive house, as well as classic house tunes, which hooked him years ago while living in his native London. Playing an array of sounds, Très, the founder of lowercasesounds.com, weaves together ambient, trip hop, downtempo, deep house, house music, and techno.

Thursdays, March 2 & May 4 @ 6:30 pm & 7:10 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)

Director and Curator Gallery Talks

Advance registration is strongly encouraged; walk-in guests will only be admitted as space permits. Please register online at www.joslyn.org (select gallery talk date and time) or by contacting Susie Severson, Director of Adult programs, at (402) 661-3862 or sseverson@joslyn.org. The talks are free with regular exhibition admission (special Thursday evening pricing of \$5 per ticket for general public adults).

Join Jack Becker, Executive Director & CEO (March 2), and Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's Chief Curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art (May 4), for a look at *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons*, discussing key works by featured artists in the exhibition. Becker and Jurovics will each offer two talks on their respective dates, beginning at 6:30 pm and 7:10 pm, with limited space at each program.

Thursday, March 16 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)

Wild Spaces, Open Seasons: Perspectives of an Artist, Sportsman, & Naturalist

Presented in the Abbott Lecture Hall, this talk is free. Those wishing to see the *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons* exhibition must secure an exhibition ticket (special Thursday evening pricing of \$5 per ticket for general public adults).

Artist Andrew Peters responds to selected objects in the exhibition which carry greatest resonance in the present day. Peters grew up immersed in nature. His father taught him to hunt and fish and be a good sportsman. His mother encouraged his early interest in art. They frequented Joslyn Art Museum, where Peters had his first painting lessons. Fascinated by birds, he hoped to become a professional artist or ornithologist. He was mentored in ecology by naturalist James Malkowski at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center.

Peters earned a bachelor of science degree in wildlife biology from Iowa State University and embarked on a freelance art career, painting birds for galleries and commissions. Travel in foreign lands brought new subjects to light, and he lived in Santa Fe for ten years to pursue landscape painting, followed by stints in Colorado, Wyoming, and Arizona. Peter's work has been featured in over forty museum exhibitions. He was the winner of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's prestigious 2015 Prix de West Purchase Award.

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Hunting and Fishing in American Art at Joslyn Art Museum

Friday, April 7 @ 7 pm

Call of the Mild with Lily Raff McCaulou

Advance reservations required for this public lecture event: \$10 Joslyn members; \$20 General Public (includes *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons* exhibition admission, hors d'oeuvres, and one free cocktail ticket; cash bar thereafter).

Reservations may be made online at www.joslyn.org or by contacting Susie Severson, Director of Adult programs, at (402) 661-3862 or sseverson@joslyn.org.

Join us for an evening with Lily Raff McCaulou as she discusses her memoir, *Call of the Mild: Learning to Hunt My Own Dinner*, and reflects on the complex issues that surround ethical hunting in America today. An urban environmentalist who moved west and became a hunter, McCaulou learned to hunt the food she loves in a sustainable way. *Call of the Mild* records her story; the *San Francisco Chronicle* named *Call of the Mild* one of the best books of 2012. McCaulou is a journalist living in Portland, Oregon, whose writing has appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic*. She has won numerous awards including a prestigious Knight Wallace Fellowship from the University of Michigan.

Following McCaulou's presentation, guests will enjoy gallery viewing, a book-signing and an hors d'oeuvres reception with a cash bar.

Saturday, April 8; 10 am–noon

KickstART Saturday

Presented six times per year, on selected Saturdays, these free events engage families with hands-on activities, performances, and demonstrations that complement Joslyn's exhibitions. On April 8, everyone is invited for a *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons* celebration including special \$5 adult exhibition tickets during the event. Participants will use various art materials and techniques, including collage, to create a wild landscape with art teacher Lindsey Tomaso. The morning will also feature a presentation by Wildlife Encounters. The group's award-winning, highly entertaining and educational program introduces audiences to some of the world's most unique animal ambassadors.

Other Programs at Joslyn

Many of Joslyn's regularly scheduled programs will feature *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons*-inspired themes this winter and spring. Visit www.joslyn.org for complete details.

- **Art Encounters** (Thursday, February 16; 10:30 am): Art lovers, from the well-seasoned to the amateur, will enjoy a docent-guided tour of the exhibition. \$5 for general public adults on February 16 (includes *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons* exhibition ticket).
- **Visualizing Literature** (Tuesday, March 14; 10:30 am): *Visualizing Literature* explores connections between the literary and visual arts through moderated book discussions and gallery tours led by docents. Selected to complement the *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons* exhibition, the novella *A River Runs through It and Other Stories* by Norman Maclean is recognized as a classic autobiographical elegy about nature's miracles. By turns raunchy, poignant, caustic, and elegiac, these superb tales express, in Maclean's own words, "a little of the love I have for the earth as it goes by." Regular exhibition ticketing applies for general public adults. Presented in partnership with Nebraska Medicine and UNMC's Passport Partners program.
- **Stroller Tours** (Wednesday, March 15): Joslyn offers docent-guided tours designed for moms, dads, and caregivers to look at and talk about art with other adults, while being mindful of young ones in arms and strollers. Guests gather on the Strauss Bridge at 9:30 am for complimentary refreshments, then head to the galleries at 10 am for tours of Joslyn's

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Hunting and Fishing in American Art at Joslyn Art Museum

collections and exhibitions. Crying babies welcome! On March 15, the tour will feature the *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons* exhibition. Free for Joslyn members and infants/toddlers; \$10 for general public adults (includes exhibition ticket). Space is limited; reservations are requested. Sign-up at least one week in advance at www.joslyn.org > Visit > Kids Programs.

- **Story Adventures** (Tuesday, April 18; 10:30 am): Preschoolers and young readers, accompanied by an adult, are invited to this artful reading program presented by Joslyn and Omaha Public Library on selected Tuesdays at 10:30 am. On April 18, stories will be read in the *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons* exhibition. Admission is free, including time spent in the exhibition galleries.
- **Art Camps and Classes**
Joslyn offers winter/spring 2017 camps and classes inspired by the exhibition for teens and adults. Online class registration is available; Joslyn members receive discounted registration. Visit www.joslyn.org > Education > Classes.

PICTURED: (page 1) Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait (American 1819–1905), *A Tight Fix – Bear Hunting, Early Winter [The Life of a Hunter: A Tight Fix]*, 1856, oil on canvas, 40 x 60 in., Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, Photography by Amon Carter Museum of American Art; (page 3) John Singer Sargent (American, born in Italy, 1856–1925), *Two Girls Fishing*, 1912, oil on canvas, 22 x 28 1/4 in., Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio. John J. Emery Fund, 1918.39, Photograph courtesy of Bridgeman Images



JOSLYN
Art Museum

Our Mission – Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.
Our Vision – To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.

General Museum Admission: Free (additional charge for general public adult tickets to *Wild Spaces, Open Seasons*; see page 3).

Regular Museum Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

www.joslyn.org | (402) 342-3300 | 2200 Dodge Street | Omaha, NE 68102