



MUSEUM of NORTHERN ARIZONA
Celebrating the Colorado Plateau

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Easton Collection Center Open House to Highlight Fine Art

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FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. – The Museum of Northern Arizona invites the public to its Easton Collection Center Open House Aug. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The free event offers a rare opportunity to view select fine art and hear from knowledgeable staff and curators.

Among the pieces visitors can experience up close are works by Hopi-Tewa painter and sculptor Dan Namingha, including his “Pictograph #14,” a 2016 acrylic on canvas featuring hummingbird katsina with symbols of planting and growth. Also prominently shown in the collection area are the “Journey of the Human Spirit” murals by Hopi artists Michael Kabotie and Delbridge Honanie. The murals relay the stories, origin cycle, mythic history, and adventures of heroes and clan ancestors in a distinct time of beginnings.

Alan Petersen, the museum’s fine art curator, has selected several works for showing during the open house, including “Sacred Mountain West” by renowned Diné painter and printmaker Harrison Begay, as well as paintings by Mary-Russell Ferrell Colton, one of the founders of the Museum of Northern Arizona.

The managers of the museum’s botany and anthropology collections will be on hand to demonstrate how artists depicted plants, jewelry, weavings, and other items in paintings and works on paper.

The museum’s fine art collection includes about 2,200 works documenting artistic pursuits on the Colorado Plateau. From oil and acrylic paintings to watercolors, drawings, sketches, etchings, block prints, lithographs, and sculptures, works by Indigenous artists are particularly strong. The collection also includes contemporary and historically significant works by late-19th to early-20th-century Anglo-American artists, many of whom were the first to visit and record the regional landscapes and people.

Dedicated in 2009, the Easton Collection Center is a remarkable example of environmentally friendly architecture designed to ensure a stable and secure environment for the museum's art, artifacts, objects, and archives. The 17,000-square-foot repository is named in honor of the facility donors Betsy and Harry Easton.

Built in consultation with a Native American advisory committee, the building faces East to greet the rising sun. It has a curving shape to invoke the cycles of life. The building lobby captures dramatic views of the sacred San Francisco Peaks. A glazed solar aperture next to the main entry door casts rays from the rising sun onto the structure's inner door on the vernal and autumnal equinoxes and marks the path between the summer and winter solstices on the inner wall of the vestibule. The building's living roof and exterior landscape consist of plants native to the Colorado Plateau.

The Easton Collection Center is across Fort Valley Road from the museum building, on land next to the Peaks Senior Living Community. Turn at the Harold S. Colton Research Center sign and go a short way up to the parking area.

[About the Museum of Northern Arizona](#)

Nestled in a forested landscape, the Museum of Northern Arizona sits at the base of the San Francisco Peaks on the road to the Grand Canyon. A gateway to understanding the Colorado Plateau for nearly 100 years, the museum engages visitors with life-enriching knowledge and experiences centered on culture, art and science. The museum is open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Learn more at <https://musnaz.org/>.