

TACOMA ART MUSEUM

MEDIA RELEASE

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Media Contact: Adrienne Edmonson, 253-272-4258 x3051 or AEdmonson@TacomaArtMuseum.org

Tacoma Art Museum's Spring Exhibitions Feature Two Female Artists, both with a Passion for their Art Forms and a Reverence for Nature



Tacoma, WA – This spring, Tacoma Art Museum's (TAM) exhibitions feature the work of Anne Appleby, a Montana-based painter widely known for her complex and subtle polychrome paintings, and the pictorialist photographer Ella McBride, internationally known in the 1920s, both artists masters in their field of expertise.

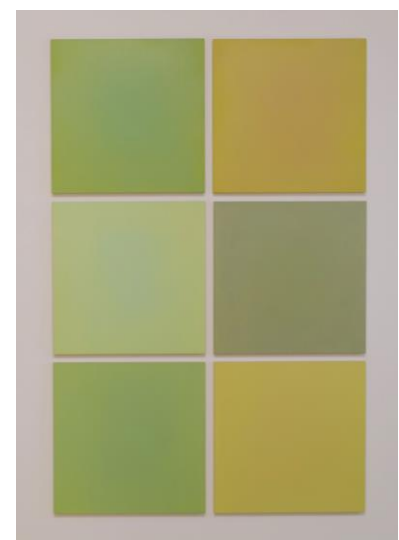
In her first major exhibition at TAM, [*We Sit Together the Mountain and Me*](#), Appleby gains inspiration and explores the beauty in her home studio on central Montana's Elkhorn Mountains. "I think my role is to capture beauty. I think so because it's the central doctrine of so many religions—it's the reverence for the

creator of the creation. It's a feeling, like beauty, both inside and out," states Anne Appleby.

By keeping an intense focus on the landscape, Appleby explores the sweeping mountainsides around her studio in her newest group of paintings. The tonal shifts in these paintings also highlight Appleby's focus on negative space, accentuating the interplay between groves and meadows. Her focus then shifts to the details of specific tree species using her critically-celebrated multi-panel sets that represent observed cycles within nature. In these works, the artist layers colors for luminous effect to evoke details from each tree. From these two approaches she sets forth an exploration of the human place within the natural world.

"We are thrilled to be the first museum to show Appleby's new paintings and her first video. These works represent some of the most complex and compelling work from our region," says Rock Hushka, TAM's deputy director and chief curator. "She clearly shows how vitally important the landscape is to the creative process to artists working in the Northwest."

"I'm interested in getting people to slow down a little bit, so they can see the world differently by awakening their sensibilities," says Appleby. Her subtly shifting color palette alludes to the complex



theories that have animated discussion of abstract painting for nearly three decades. Appleby's exhibition also features her first video, *Moving Trees*, which captures the tension between the magnificent stillness of winter and the overwhelming power of nature. For Appleby, the gently falling snow and the slow movement of the trees represent beauty that may be found in the inevitability of change.

Opening the following week, [*Captive Light: The Life and Photography of Ella E. McBride*](#) highlights Ella McBride (1862-1965), a multi-talented photographer who was internationally-acclaimed during her lifetime but is little known now. McBride began her photography career running the Seattle studio of well-known photographer Edward Sheriff Curtis. She went on to become an important figure in both the regional and international pictorialist photography movements and ran her own successful Seattle photography studio for over 35 years.



McBride was self-taught as a photographer. In 1921 she created her first image and began participating in a host of exhibitions worldwide. Her talent was recognized and celebrated almost overnight. She was a proponent of pictorialist photography, the style that dominated art photography worldwide during the 1800s and into the early 1900s.

Pictorialists were dedicated to proving the artistic possibilities of photography. During the 1920s McBride was listed as one of the most exhibited pictorialist photographers in the world. Her subjects were primarily florals, still lifes, and portraits and included some landscapes and figurative images. She also was a prominent member of the short-lived but influential Seattle Camera Club (active 1924-1929), one of an international network of camera clubs that exhibited and promoted each other's work.



McBride also was an avid mountain climber and environmental advocate. part of the group behind the naming of Mt. Rainier as a national park. She noted in an interview late in life that it was the spring displays of flowers on Mount Rainier that inspired her love of flowers and her focus on floral images as a photographer. She also co-founded the Seattle branch of the Soroptimist Club, an organization for business and professional women.

McBride's fine-art career was cut short by the Great Depression in the 1930s. After her death her archive of commercial and art photographs and negatives was destroyed. Only about 150 of her fine-art images still survive; 57 of those works will be on view in Tacoma Art Museum's exhibition.

Captive Light is co-curated by Margaret Bullock, TAM's Curator of Collections and Special Exhibitions, and David Martin, owner of Martin-Zambito Fine Art and consulting curator for Cascadia Art Museum. "The most interesting aspect of Ella's life and work is how she was able to develop a career as an artist at age 60." stated Martin, "She ran her own portrait studio from 1915 on, when it was a tremendous challenge for a woman to own and run a business, especially considering the fact that she worked, almost exclusively, with Japanese photographers."

“What I think is so amazing about Ella,” says Bullock, “is her very concentrated explosion of creativity. She doesn’t take a photograph until she’s almost 60 years old. But then she just dives in, masters the craft almost overnight, makes a lot of beautiful and highly technical work, exhibits all over the world, and creates an international reputation for herself in about two years. Then eight years later in 1929, the Great Depression forces her to concentrate on the commercial side of her studio work in order to pay the bills and she never pursues the fine art work again, despite the fact that she lived to be 102.”

[Captive Light: The Life and Photography of Ella E. McBride](#) is the next installment in the museum’s Northwest Perspective series rediscovering significant Northwest artists and features a catalogue that will be available in the museum store and through the University of Washington Press..

Both exhibitions will open during Women’s History Month and will be featured as part of TAM’s **#5WomenArtists** social media campaign.

Anne Appleby: We Sit Together the Mountain and Me was organized by Tacoma Art Museum and made possible through the generous support of the Haub Family Endowment.

Captive Light: The Life and Photography of Ella E. McBride was organized by Tacoma Art Museum.

[Anne Appleby: We Sit Together the Mountain and Me](#)

On View March 10 – June 3, 2018

[Captive Light: The Life and Photography of Ella E. McBride](#)

On View March 17 – July 8, 2018

PRESS TOUR on Thursday, MARCH 15 at 10:30 am
RSVP to AEdmonson@TacomaArtMuseum.org

Image Credits, top to bottom, left to right:

Anne Appleby, *Moving Trees*, 2013. Single-channel digital projection, 3 minutes, 24 seconds. Courtesy of the artist and Anglim Gilbert Gallery, San Francisco.

Anne Appleby, *Ponderosa Pine*, 2017. Oil and wax on panel, 6 panels, 56 x 37 inches, overall.

Ella McBride, *A Shirley Poppy*, 1925. Gelatin silver print on Textura tissue, 9½ x 7¼ inches, Private collection, Photo © TAM, photo by Lou Cuevas.

Edward S. Curtis, *Untitled*, 1897. A party of Mazamas on the summit of Pinnacle Peak. Mount Rainier 1897 Collection, Mazamas Library and Historical Collections, VM1993-016 print03. **McBride is the woman in the center in the striped shirt, bow tie, and high crowned hat. Curtis is to her left, holding a camera, wearing glasses and a white neckerchief.**

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS (TacomaArtMuseum.org/events)

UNFRAMED Fourth Fridays

Friday, February 23, 2018, 6 – 10 pm

Amp up your [fourth Fridays](#) and experience the unexpected at TAM! Music, meetups, drinks, and more. 21+ only. Check out this month’s lineup:

- Explore [5 NEW exhibitions](#) with our Instagram Scavenger Hunt ([#TAMunframed](#))
- Mix it up with music by local DJ [Josiah French](#)
- Collaborate on an EPIC collage
- Try needle felting in TAM Studio
- Enjoy western bites from [TAM Cafe](#)
- Cash bar available

Cost: \$10 (\$5 [members](#)/students with ID). Tickets available online at bit.ly/TAMunframed1

Second Saturday Studio and Storytime
Saturday, March 10, 2018, 11 am – 2 pm

On the second Saturday of every month (11 am – 2 pm), Tacoma Art Museum hosts a variety of fun experiences especially for children ages 2–8 and their families. Try out a new art style in [TAM Studio](#) with an activity led by TAM staff and volunteers. Hear a story in the galleries and explore related works of art. It's fun for the whole family!

Studio activity is FREE; Storytime in the galleries is FREE with admission. More information at bit.ly/TAM2sat2b

FREE Third Thursday (*Generously sponsored by Columbia Bank.*)
Thursday, March 15, 5 – 8 pm

Tacoma Art Museum joins other local museums in staying open late each month. February programming includes:

Happy Hour in the TAM Cafe, 4 – 7 pm

Free museum admission begins at 5 pm. Come early and relax in the TAM Cafe for happy hour discounts on beer, wine, and snacks. Paid admission is not required to visit the TAM Cafe. View the menu online at bit.ly/TAMcafe

TAM Local Reception: *Like Mother, Like Daughter*, 5:00 – 7:30 pm
Third floor, Cheney classroom

Taken from the phrase “like mother, like daughter,” this group show features 22 multi-disciplinary artworks created by women in tribute to our moms (and mothers everywhere). Our moms were jet-setters, ballerinas, writers, debutantes, scientists, pioneers, etc. Some survived wars, mental-illness, racism—their stories are as fascinating as the art they inspired. The artist-daughters in this show share visual and written stories, deeply considering the personal yet universal themes about one of the most beautiful and complex relationships—mother to daughter.

This installation has been curated by Kelly Lyles. Learn more about the artist at www.kellyspot.com

F.O.A.M. for Teens, 6 – 8 pm

Join TAM's [Teen Art Council](#) for F.O.A.M., a free night of Film, Open mic, or Art-Making just for teens! Stop by the Tacoma Art Museum every third Thursday from 6 to 8 pm. Don't stay at home, go to F.O.A.M.!

Learn more about the Teen Art Council online at bit.ly/TAMteenart

Artist Talk: A Conversation with Artist Anne Appleby, Curator Grace Kook-Anderson, and Art Critic Tyler Green
Saturday, March 17, 2018, 3 – 4 pm

Join in on a conversation with an art world trifecta—an artist, a curator, and an art critic. Artist Anne Appleby will reflect on how the beauty and majesty of Montana influences her practice in her solo exhibition *We Sit Together the Mountain and Me*. Curator of Northwest Art at Portland Art Museum, Kook-Anderson brings perspective on how Anne's work fits into the broader scope of Northwest art. Called “the most influential of all visual art blogs,” Tyler Green's [Modern Art Notes](#) weekly podcast features artists, historians, and curators.

Appleby, Kook-Anderson, and Green will share a digital collage of artistic influences and discuss how the relationship between nature and humanity inspires Appleby's minimalistic, luminous paintings.

Cost: \$10 (\$5 [members](#)/students with ID). Tickets available online at bit.ly/TAMapplebytalk

Spring Exhibitions Members' Celebration
Saturday, March 17, 2018, 7 – 9 pm

Come celebrate our new spring exhibitions! Join us to explore *Anne Appleby: We Sit Together the Mountain and Me*; *Captive Light: The Life and Photography of Ella E. McBride*; and [five new western art exhibitions](#) in our Haub Family Galleries. Meet our new Executive Director [David Setford](#), converse with artists and collectors, enjoy lively music, take part in a YMCA-hosted art activity, snap a selfie at our photo kiosk, and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar.

Members' Celebration in-kind support provided by Heritage Distilling Co.

Cost: FREE for [members](#); \$20 non-members; \$10 students with ID. Tickets available online at bit.ly/TAMspringparty

Artist Talk: Curt Walters
Sunday, April 8, 2018, 2 – 3 pm

Artist, activist, and adventurer [Curt Walters](#) shares the stories behind his majestic landscape paintings. Walters is known for his commitment to the Grand Canyon, both painting it and working to protect it from the growing threat of air pollution. Hear about Walters's conservation efforts, insights into his art studio practice, and influences from his travels.

Walters has exhibited his artworks at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis, and of course here at Tacoma Art Museum. See Walters's iconic *Supreme Moment of Evening* painting on view at the museum.

The talk will be followed by a reception with hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar.

Part of the *Christine Mollring and Jennifer E. Sands Artist Lecture Series*, which focuses on contemporary artists of the American West.

Cost: \$10 (\$5 [members](#)/students with ID). Tickets available soon; more information at bit.ly/TAMcurtwalters

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About Tacoma Art Museum

Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) is an anchor in the city's downtown and a gathering space for connecting people through art. TAM serves the diverse communities of the Northwest through its collection, exhibitions, and learning programs, emphasizing art and artists from the Northwest and broader western region. TAM's collection contains over 5,000 works, including the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly, the most significant museum collection of jewelry by Northwest artists, key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art, and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. In 2014, TAM welcomed a gift of 295 works of western American art in the Haub Family Collection, one of the premier collections in the nation and the first major western American art museum collection in the Northwest. The Haub gift included funding for new galleries; the Haub Family Galleries opened in 2014. In January 2016, TAM announced the gift of the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection, including 225 works of art. The gift also includes funding for the Benaroya wing which will open in January of 2019. TAM welcomes you to come explore the galleries and relax in our serene light-filled architecture—your perfect destination for shopping, art-making, dining, and inspiration.

HOURS – Tuesdays–Sundays 10 am–5 pm, Third Thursdays 10 am–8 pm; Third Thursdays free 5–8 pm.

ADMISSION – Adult \$15, Student/Senior (65+) \$13, Family \$40 (2 adults and up to 4 children under 18), Children 5 and under free. TAM Members; active duty military, reservists, veterans, and their families always free.

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