



Footprints

"Every man must leave tracks and they might as well be good ones." - Thomas Gilcrease

August 2025



Ever since I went through intern training in 2019 and was introduced to the Taos Society of Artists, I have looked forward to visiting Taos for the first time. Finally, last week, the dream came true! Many thanks to my travel partner, Carol Stookey, for the planning that went into a week crammed with art, history, unique experiences, and yummy food. Special thanks to Kathy Horne, who was our docent for an amazing tour of the Couse-Sharp House with special emphasis on details that Gillies especially would appreciate! See photos and more from the trip later in this issue.



Don't forget that we have a Gillies/docents meeting coming up this Friday, tomorrow, August 1. See more about our speaker, the new Director of Curatorial Affairs Alex Mann, in the Docent Corner article by Docent Chair Alana Trisler. Travel opportunities will be coming up, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Travel Chair Cindy Strasheim. Put Friday, September 19, on your calendar for the Forum with guest speaker Rhys Martin and lunch at Oklahoma Joe's. (Thank you, Forum Chair JoAnne Goin!) Look for upcoming events for Gilcrease members from Gilcrease Member and Donor Engagement Specialist J.J. Cody-Fox on page 7 of this issue. There are some fun opportunities coming up. And it won't be long until the first event in the new museum—Scrollathon—takes place in October, followed by a Family Festival on the grounds on Saturday, October 11!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I hope to see you at the Gillies/docents meeting on Friday!

Becky Hatchett

New Mexico/Taos

July 2025



Outside Santa Fe we visited the Allan Houser (Haozous) Sculpture Garden and Gallery. Houser's grandson, Sam Haozous, was our guide. The outdoor sculpture garden features approximately 70 large-scale stone, bronze, and steel sculptures, while the indoor gallery consists of 4 rooms of smaller sculptures, drawings, and paintings. The tour is by appointment only.



While I knew that Nicolai Fechin (pronounced Fay-shin, I learned) was a painter, I didn't know that he also learned woodcarving from his father. The carved pieces in the Fechin House at the Taos Art Museum include columns, stair rails, doors, and furniture.



Seeing Joseph Henry Sharp's first studio was magical!



So was sitting in the very same spot as the founders of the Taos Society of Artists!



Behind these linen closet doors in the Couse House is a hidden playroom, never before seen on tour. This section of the house had been closed to visitors until recently, as Couse's granddaughter, Virginia Couse Leavitt, lived in it. She passed away in November 2024.



Our last stop before heading home was the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. Philmont's motifs are more Western and Spanish than Tulsa's Italianate Philbrook. However, some of the features seemed similar!



For Your Information

- Julie Gentz was recently recognized on Gilcrease's Instagram page for her work in the Archives at the Helmerich Center for American Research. Julie has been a Gillie since 2013-14, but before that her mother, Mary Gentz (Intern class of 1987-88), was a Gillie also working in the Gilcrease library. Among the items that Julie has discovered in the Archives is a 37-year-old note from her mother! See the video featuring Julie [here](#).
- The final day for the Samurai exhibit at Philbrook is Sunday, August 3. You may not have been aware that there is a related exhibit upstairs from Philbrook's own collection that features Japonisme. What is Japonisme, you ask? Wikipedia defines Japonisme as "a French term that refers to the popularity and influence of Japanese art and design among a number of Western European artists in the 19th century following the forced reopening of foreign trade with Japan in 1858." See an article about Japonisme by Dr. Bob Pickering on the **Gilcrease** website [here](#).
- Travel Chair Cindy Strasheim has been doing some research on a bus trip to the Choctaw Nation, date to be announced. Stops may include:
 - [Choctaw Cultural Center in Calera](#)
 - [Magnolia Mile Art Alley](#)
 - [Semple Family Museum of Native American Art](#) at Southeastern Oklahoma State University
 - [Mount Olivet Cemetery \(Showmen's Rest\)](#)
 - [Museum of the Red River](#)



Gillies General Membership Meeting and Forum

Friday, September 19, 2025

Oklahoma Joe's BBQ

6175 East 61st Street, Tulsa

(Enter the banquet room through the back door)

9:30 a.m.	Meet and Greet
10:00 a.m.	Call to order; Sondra Mullins will serve as Parliamentarian Approval of the minutes of the General Membership Meeting, May 9 Secretary's Membership Report – Julie Gentz Treasurer's Report – Susan Lorton Auditor's Report – Marsha McElroy
10:20 a.m.	Executive Director's Remarks – Brian Lee Whisenhunt
10:45 a.m.	Forum Speaker – Rhys Martin
12:00 noon	Lunch

Buffet Menu

Chopped Brisket

Salad

Fried Okra

Barbecue Beans

Water, Iced Tea, Coffee

Price: \$21.50 (includes tax and gratuity)

If a soft drink is wanted, it will have to be purchased by the individual.

RSVP by September 15 to channonclark@prodigy.net

The Gillies welcome Rhys Martin as our speaker for the 2025 Fall Forum. Rhys Martin works for the National Trust for Historic Preservation as the Manager of the Preserve Route 66 Associations. This initiative provides grants and advocacy to help Route 66 tell the American story as we approach the centennial anniversary of the founding of Route 66 in 2026. He serves as the president of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association and serves in various other volunteer organizations.

Rhys found a love of travel in 2009 when he sold all his possessions to backpack through southeast Asia and Europe. He returned home to develop an interest in traveling Route 66 as a photographer and writer.

Rhys's writings and photography have appeared in *Tulsa People*, *Nimrod*, *Oklahoma Magazine*, *The Tulsa World*, *The Oklahoman*, and numerous publications and travel shows. He is the author of *Lost Restaurants of Tulsa*, a book featuring the iconic Tulsa restaurants through history that are no longer with us. He is a Tulsan and loves to share his experiences of the Mother Road.



Gilcrease Member Events Coming Up

(from J.J. Cody-Fox)

We're thrilled to invite you to a variety of upcoming Gilcrease events this fall—some just for members, and others open to the whole community. From a behind-the-scenes webinar to wine dinners, family festivals, and an exciting artist residency, there's something for everyone.

Here's what's coming up:

Gilcrease Inside Out

Making Moves at Gilcrease: Preparing for our New Museum & Collection Space

August 19, 6:00 PM | Zoom Webinar, Members-only

Join Laura Bryant, our Director of Repatriation and Jordan Naruszewicz, our Anthropology Collections Steward, for a special members-only webinar. They will be sharing some of the behind-the-scenes preparation for the move into our brand-new collections storage as well as detailing daily practices to care for and protect our collections for future generations.

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GC30IG_2TMuZYMAbPJV55Q

Have a question for our presenters? **Submit it here:** <https://forms.office.com/r/DvCnM26c7H>

Gilcrease Member Wine Dinner at Juniper

September 3, 6:00 PM | Juniper, 324 E. 3rd St, Tulsa

Enjoy an intimate evening of great food and wine with fellow members.

Member-only presale until August 4th. Log in to view ticket options.

Tickets here: <https://my.gilcrease.org/34291/34292>

Save the date for the following events! More details to come!

Gilcrease Family Festival

October 11, 11:00–2:00 PM | Gilcrease Museum Grounds

Bring the whole family for a free afternoon of activities, food, and music—plus special member perks!

Details and registration coming soon.

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Stephen Towns Residency Events

November 5 – Artist Lecture | TU Lorton Performance Center

November 6 – Members Coffee (Time & Location TBA)

Join us in welcoming artist Stephen Towns to Tulsa this fall. Details and registration coming soon.

First Americans Museum Bus Trip

November 12 | In collaboration with Philbrook Museum

A full-day excursion to Oklahoma City. Details and registration coming soon.

Visit gilcrease.org/events for more info and to RSVP.

We can't wait to see you there!

J.J.



Gillies Cook!

Oatmeal Craisin Cookies

- 1 Cup Butter
- 1 Cup Granulated Sugar
- 1 Cup Brown Sugar
- 2 Eggs (Room Temperature)
- 1 Tsp Vanilla
- 1 Tsp Key lime juice
- 1 1/2 Cups Flour (All purpose)
- 1 Tsp Cinnamon
- 1 Tsp Salt
- 1 Tsp Baking Soda
- 2 Cups Quick Oatmeal
- 2 Cups chopped walnuts or pecans



Cream butter and sugars in large bowl. Add eggs. Mix eggs into butter mixture until incorporated. Add vanilla and key lime juice to butter and sugar. Mix well. Sift flour in medium bowl and add cinnamon, salt and baking soda to flour. Mix well. Combine flour mixture with wet ingredients, then add oats and mix well. Add Craisins and nuts.

Refrigerate dough for several hours or overnight. Roll into one-inch balls and place on cookie sheet. I use Silpat liner or parchment paper on pans. Space cookies two inches apart. Bake at 350 degrees for 11 to 15 minutes. This recipe makes 48 to 60 cookies.





Studio Visitors

Joseph Henry Sharp, 1910

“Taos is one of the places to which everyone must someday come.” Erna Ferguson

Joseph Henry Sharp (1859-1953)

Joseph Henry Sharp was born in Bridgeport, Ohio, in 1859. A near-drowning at age 12 led to an ear infection that left him completely and permanently deaf. He attended the McMicken University School of Design in Cincinnati, after which he studied art in Europe. He made his first visit to Taos in 1893 and “encouraged many other artists to make Taos their studio.” (Gillies Manual) In 1915 he became one of the founding members of the Taos Society of Artists.

Although the first Sharp paintings were purchased by Thomas Gilcrease through the Berg gallery, he soon developed a relationship with Sharp that allowed him to purchase directly from the artist, which he did until Sharp’s death in 1953. In the book *Taos Artists and Their Patrons 1898-1950*, an entire chapter is devoted to Thomas Gilcrease with much emphasis placed upon his friendship and business relationship with Sharp. From that book: “A substantial collection of letters between the two, beginning in August 1945, tells a fascinating story of their relationship. The first is from Gilcrease to Sharp, enclosing a check for two paintings Gilcrease had selected in Taos and making a request that Gilcrease repeated from time to time throughout their relationship—that Sharp give ‘description, place, and approximate time of painting, plus any information that might be of interest pertaining to each of the paintings so that we may have on file and display this description along with the painting.’ [The author of *Taos Artists and Their Patrons* notes that the letters are in the Gilcrease Museum archives.]

In fact, Sharp had kept detailed notes about most of his paintings and sitters, and had a wealth of information to share with Gilcrease to help satisfy his insatiable appetite for Native American history. He took to heart Gilcrease’s request for information on each painting, declaring a few weeks later: ‘I have writers cramp, and full of splinters! Literary efforts are not in my line...Condensed historic and anecdotal notes on back of each [painting]—tear off and have typed before any are lost...’”

The following [image](#) from the Gilcrease website shows the back of the painting above, *Studio Visitors*, with Sharp’s notes about the painting. Under “Marks and Inscriptions” the art item information says that the notes are “Inscribed on a piece of cardboard nailed to the frame.” The notes say: “-Apaches- (Studio Visitors) Apaches, Utes, Pueblos from along the Rio Grande, others from Oklahoma and the north came to Taos for the big “Fiesta” last of Sept. “Bawling Deer” brought the Apaches to studio. They went right up to the easel to see what I was painting of him. Quick pencil sketches gave me the unconscious grouping, pose and interest- Then later, all (underlined) posed at one time for the painting.” The art item information also includes this note: “Inscribed in pencil on the cardboard dust cover, “STUDIO VISITORS J.H.Sharp- Taos, New Mex.” on verso”



August 2025
Docents' Corner
Alana Trisler, Docent Chair

Dear Gillies and Docents,

Just a reminder and as reported in the July 2025 Footprints newsletter, **Alex Mann, Director of Curatorial Affairs will be our guest speaker at this Friday's, (August 1) Gillies/Docents meeting** – which I can't believe we will be in August – but so be it! You won't want to miss this one as we will gain more insight into the curatorial team's current efforts as well as Alex's curatorial vision for the museum's future exhibits, etc.

Looking to the future, our upcoming Gillies/Docents Meeting line-up will include:

September: No Gillies/Docent Meeting in lieu of the *General Membership Meeting on 9-19.*

October: We are still trying to solidify plans with the Smith Group to have a team member come and share the symbology incorporated into the overall design of the building that supports its place and significance to the land and the Indigenous people of Oklahoma. We will update you when we have concrete confirmation.

November 7: (*Drum roll, please.*) **Executive Director Brian Lee Whisenhunt** will be our featured speaker to share his vision and plans for the museum as well as specifics that he will share at that time. Not to be missed!

December: No Gillies/Docent Meeting this month.

2026: Details are yet to be worked out, but we plan to begin presenting to volunteers, the contents of the new spaces by having the Curatorial team share their particular areas of work. As to the topics to be covered in each 2026 Gillies/Docents meeting – you will know when we know – *but please mark your calendar for the upcoming meeting dates in 2026: January 2, February 6, and April 3.*

Gillies/Docent Meeting, Friday, August 1, 2025
Refreshments at 9:30
Meeting begins at 10:00
PACCAR Classroom in HCAR

Please Take Note

Beginning August 1st, Gillies will need to use the new password to get into the website!!!!

The new password is: gillies2526

Secretary's Report

A get-well card was sent to Sondra Mullins.

The following have resigned their membership in The Gillies: Benita Adams, Bruce Arnold, JoAnn Bishop, Uschi Gaida, John Goodenow, Leona Graham, and Winnie Perdue.

Please send changes in contact information (address, phone, and email) as well as news about a Gillie who is ill to Gillies Secretary Julie Gentz at Julie.gentz55@gmail.com

July 2025 Hours

Service Area	Hours
Anthropology	47
Archives/HCAR	69
Board of Directors	0
Conservation	42
Executive Committee	0
Digitization	8
Footprints newsletter	16
Route 66 Outreach	6
SOG Presentations	28
Travel Committee	16
Technology (IT)	10
Total	242

Mark Your Calendar

Executive Committee Meeting by Zoom	Thursday, September 11	9:00 a.m.
Board of Directors Meeting by Zoom	Thursday, September 11	10:00 a.m.
Forum and Luncheon	Friday, September 19	
Meet and Greet		9:30 a.m.
Meeting and Speaker		10:00 a.m.
Lunch		12:00 noon