

MIND BODY SPIRIT

THE INGREDIENTS OF A

WONDERFUL

LIFE

The roots of the cultural life of Aspen are inseparable from the story of Walter and Elizabeth Paepcke who pursued recreating Aspen with an astounding vigor. Aspen has grown from these roots to an arts community of international stature, with a new space for the Aspen Art Museum, and galleries to knock your socks off. By Ann Zimmerman

It's just part of the winter experience to watch reruns of Frank Capra's 1946 classic film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and contemplate the film's question: What if George Bailey never existed? Take this a little further, and ask, would Aspen have the cultural vibrancy of united mind, body and spirit if Walter and Elizabeth Paepcke hadn't come to Aspen in 1945 to make it their home? Would Aspen be the vibrant arts community it is today?

The Paepcke's love affair with Aspen is a remarkable story. Walter Paepcke arrived in Aspen from Chicago in 1945. An industrialist, he was the Chairman of the Container Corporation of America, a serious collector of American art, and a strong supporter of Bauhaus architecture. His first concern was restoring the Victorian charm of Aspen, and he bought up properties, including the historic Wheeler-Stallard House that would become their home, and commissioned Bauhaus architect Herbert Bayer to renovate them.

Paepcke formed the Aspen Skiing Company, and in 1946 Aspen Mountain opened the longest chairlift. Architect Herbert Bayer and Paepcke together envisioned the Roaring Fork Valley as a place where artists, leaders, thinkers, and musicians could gather, and in 1949 they expressed this vision as they formulated the

200th birthday celebration of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a Renaissance man whose interdisciplinary interests made him a writer, artist, biologist, and physicist. Over 2,000 people were drawn to the celebrations, including some of the greatest minds of the day: Albert Schweitzer, Jose Ortega y Gasset, Thornton Wilder, and Arthur Rubinstein.

This effort was the seed of the Aspen Institute, founded by Paepcke in 1950, dedicated as a forum for the human spirit, and an institution for recapturing leaders' values. Paepcke established the International Design Conference at Aspen. In 1949, he founded the Aspen Music Festival and School, where for eight weeks every summer, 350 musical events entertain and educate.

It is difficult to imagine the Roaring Fork Valley without this legacy. How does one draw the line between inspiration and encouragement and the natural course of events or monumental efforts of others? Still this legacy lives on in the Aspen Institute, the ski resorts, the International Design Conference, and the Aspen Music Festival and School. But the visual arts seem to have developed their own momentum after the impetus of the vision for Aspen.

The Aspen Art Museum, founded in 1979 and for the last 30 years operating in a converted historical hydroelectric plant, has a new home underway. The design by noted architect Shigeru Ban will provide the 35,000 annual museum visitors 12,500 square feet of gallery space, and room for the museum to expand its community-based programs. The museum offers free access to exhibits, art workshops, art programs in surrounding schools, a free lecture series, and guided tours of the museum's exhibits and private collections. In January there is program planned entitled, "I Don't Get It," that dares participants to ask questions about contemporary art. In February, the ongoing Architecture Lecture Series presents Columbian architect Felipe Mesa. Dates for events and exhibits are available through the Aspen Art Museum.

FORRE & CO. FINE ART GALLERY

This spacious gallery is located on E. Hyman Avenue in Aspen. They focus on four areas of collections: the Masters, sculpture, contemporary artists, and photography. The substantial Masters' offerings include Impressionists Degas, Manet, Renoir, and Pissaro, and Post-Impressionist Masters include Miro, Chagall, Matisse, Picasso and Dali.

TOKLAT GALLERY

Lynne Mace, daughter of Isabel and Stuart Mace, invites you to Toklat Gallery, the legendary Mace family's gallery in the historic river town of Basalt, Colorado, 20 minutes west of Aspen. Toklat Gallery is where the Roaring Fork Valley's pioneer spirit, a dedication to preserving a family legacy, and magnificent crafts combine in a showcase often referred to by guests as like a museum. "Dedicated since 1949 to fine three-dimensional handcrafted art," Lynne Mace says, "I continue to honor not only my parents' vision, but also that of the artists who are represented—some for many decades—in this gallery."

The collection is deep and eclectic with a range of prices from a stocking stuffer to a major piece of art for a collection. For over thirty years, Toklat Gallery has been proud to represent the hand-woven wool rugs from Teotitlan del Vallee, Mexico's finest weaving village.

E.S. LAWRENCE GALLERY

The E. S. Lawrence Gallery offers international selections and a wide variety of fine contemporary art. It is not only Aspen's oldest gallery, but it is located in one of Aspen's oldest mining era buildings at 217 S. Galena Street in downtown Aspen. Visitors may anticipate contemporary, realistic, and impressionistic works. Current offerings include bronzes from Israeli artist Leon Bronstein, fine carved sculptures from New York artist David Hostetler, watercolors by American artist Steve Hanks, Brazilian copper paintings by Hamilton Aguiar, Croatian painter Zvonimir Mihanovic, and others.

VALLEY FINE ART

After an extensive remodel, Valley Fine Art's gallery is now open in the same South Mill Street location. The gallery has more than 20 years of experience showing classic American art, and it specializes in 19th- and early 20th-century American paintings and the Native American photography by Edward S. Curtis. Among these are the works of iconic American artists including Adams, Audubon, Bierstadt, Jackson, Moran, Remington, Russell and the Taos Founders. Valley Fine Arts has the largest collection of vintage Edward Curtis prints in the country. Represented works by living artists include Agius, Blagg, Bunn, Burkett, Coleman, Encinias, Naranjo, Van Cleve and Waddell.

GALERIE MAXIMILLIAN

Located in Aspen on East Cooper Avenue, Galerie Maximillian specializes in modern and contemporary fine art and offers museum quality custom framing for acquisitions. Galerie Maximillian is celebrating an anniversary with a special exhibit, Evolution. It commemorates the gallery's 15th year offering Aspen's collectors exceptional masterworks on paper with a reception on December 27th. Evolution offers a collection of 19th and 20th century works, featuring artists such as Renoir, Tissot, Lautrec, Picasso, Matisse, Chagall, Miro and Dubuffet. Contemporary projects include globally recognized artists, Damien Hirst, Anish Kapoor, Grayson Perry, Julian Opie and Peter Doig.



Nature Sublime, Ingrid Dee Magidson, Layered Mixed Media, 33 x 29 inches, courtesy of Ann Korologos Gallery

ANN KOROLOGOS GALLERY

Focusing on Western art and artists influenced by the west, founder Ann Korologos envisions a gallery that connects collectors with artists. Collections feature a variety of media, including etchings and sculpture. Currently being shown is *Blending Centuries: the Art of Ingrid Dee Magidson*. The artist's 16th Century subjects are created with 21st Century materials: a unique blend of transparent layers, acrylic, paint, rare objects and butterflies. The Hermitage Museum Foundation featured her work last fall. The gallery is located in Basalt.



JOEL SOROKA GALLERY

The Joel Soroka Gallery was established in Aspen, Colorado in 1993. Mr. Soroka's preceding career was a private dealer and avid collector of fine art photographs. Located in Aspen in the courtyard at the corner of the Hyman Avenue Mall across South Mill Street from the Wheeler Opera House, it is an intimate, salon-style gallery that brings back memories of a more personal, less commercial era in the world of fine art photography.

In inventory are rare and important vintage photographs by historic masters, such as Edward Weston, Dorothea Lange, Brassai, Lewis Hine, Man Ray, Berenice Abbott, Josef Sudek, Brett Weston, Frantisek Drtikol and Ilse Bing, and many others. Also represented are works by renowned contemporary American and international photographers and up-and-coming younger artists recognized by the owner for their extraordinary quality, including Beatrice Helg, Luis Gonzalez-Palma, Lalla Essaydi, Lynn Bianchi, Frederic Ohringer, Cig Harvey and Franco Donaggio.



WIND RIVER GALLERY

The Wind River Gallery is Aspen's premiere and longest standing Western American fine art gallery. It is located in the heart of downtown Aspen in the Ute City Bank Building. Locally owned and operated, they are very accommodating and available year-round for deliveries and installations.

The gallery has continuously exhibited the valley's largest collection of bronzes since the early 90's. Wind River's sculptures are cast in the traditional lost-wax method with superior bronze at American foundries, which is becoming an increasingly rare combination.

Emphasizing Western American subjects, the gallery features original works by some of America's finest contemporary artists. Works include oil paintings focused on landscape, wildlife, and figures of the distinctly unique history of our country. The fine works are equally suitable for mountain contemporary homes as well as traditional historic homes. Despite the local demand, the gallery finds that most works end up being shipped worldwide, probably due to the international appeal of the Aspen area.

TOP *Spider Dahlia*, Frederic Ohringer, 1993, 20 x 24 inches, Edition of 25;
BOTTOM *El Hombre Alado*, Luis Gonzalez Palma, 1989, 20 x 20 inches,
Edition of 3. Courtesy of Joel Soroka Gallery

Featured artists include Harry Jackson, Michael Coleman, Gene Speck, Roger Ore, Mark Keathley, Fred Fellows, Robert Pummill, Buck Mahaney, Robert Harper, J.C. Dye, Michael Thomas, Jim Cook, Joffa Kerr, Deborah Copenhaver Fellows, and Gene Zesch.

LIV ASPEN ART

Founded by Aspen artist Olivia Daane Reische, the working studio has opened a gallery on East Cooper Avenue in Aspen. The gallery focuses on work by emerging artists from the Roaring Fork Valley and beyond. Exhibitions are accompanied by a lecture series. This winter will feature a group exhibition entitled "Energy as Currency." It will include new work by Stanley Bell, Matt Neuman, Mariana Vierira, and Kurt Lighter.

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GALLERY

505 East Hyman Avenue in Aspen
www.windrivergallery.com

LIV ASPEN ART



LIVASPENART GALLERY is Aspen's only contemporary art gallery featuring local emerging as well as nationally and internationally recognized artists.

Owner Olivia Reische and Gallery Director Rebecca Mirsky fill a niche by presenting paintings, works on paper, canvas, photography, sculpture, video and sound installations from many artists who are on the cusp of "discovery." From former LIVASPENART studio-resident and painter Matt Neuman to Detroit-native Cooper Holoweski, who was recently featured in MoMA PS1 tour, and Brooklyn-based Jacob Rhodes, who participated in the Brooklyn Museum Biennale, Reische has an eye for talent.

As an artist whose recent work shows locally at Elliott Yeary, Reische gives the gallery an edge, choosing artists "based on the truths I feel they are seeking in their process." The gallery also hosts a winter conversation series where visitors can meet and dialogue with the artists. Together, Reische and Mirsky have created a hot-spot for contemporary art buyers and aficionados looking for new talent.

LIVASPENART GALLERY takes a fresh stance among Aspen's "blue-chip" galleries, being one of the few spaces for discovery and dialogue; new works and processes. "I'm trying to connect human to human, she says. "It could be the energy of colors or the narrative that engages a dialogue."

Keep an eye on Reische. She just might be Aspen's Leo Castelli.

GALLERY

414 E. Cooper Avenue in Aspen
www.livaspenart.com