



KNME presents “PAINTING TAOS”

**Premieres: Monday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m.,
on all three New Mexico PBS TV stations**

KNME, Ch. 5 (northern & central NM)

KENW- Portales, Ch.3 (eastern NM)

KRWG- Las Cruces, Ch. 22 (southern NM)

“No artist had ever recorded the superb New Mexico I was seeing. No writer had, to my knowledge, ever written down the smell of sage brush air, or the feel of the morning sky.

I was receiving...the first great unforgettable inspiration of my life.” — Ernest Blumenschein

In September 1898, two city slickers, Bert Phillips and Ernest Blumenschein, leave behind their lives as successful magazine illustrators in New York to head West. It’s not long before their muscles are aching, and their wagon wheels are breaking. When Blumenschein goes to look for help, he stumbles across the town of Taos. It’s an accident that will change his life-- and the future of New Mexico. They seize this inspiration and the two decide to end their journey right then and there. The Taos art colony is born.

Public television station KNME, Ch. 5.1 (PBS - Albuquerque/ Santa Fe) presents a new, hour-long program, **PAINTING TAOS**, exploring the colorful history that allowed six relatively unknown painters, known as the Taos Society of Artists, to turn a small mountain village into a premiere American art destination in just a few short decades.

PAINTING TAOS premieres Monday, Dec. 7 at 7:00 pm, statewide, on all three New Mexico PBS stations, KNME, Ch. 5 (northern & central NM), **KENW- Portales, Ch.3** (eastern NM) and **KRWG- Las Cruces, Ch. 22** (southern NM.). PAINTING TAOS was made possible in part by: The Albuquerque Tricentennial Committee, First Community Bank, and Randy Briggs.

Drawing from collections across the United States, PAINTING TAOS shares masterpieces of this pioneering group of artists. Through interviews with avid collectors, as well as historians, and the artists’ direct descendents, learn how these young, ambitious artists set out to paint vivid images of the “vanishing” West for an American public on the brink of modernity.

With color photography still out of reach, America couldn't get enough of their oversized, brightly colored canvases showcasing the wonders of the high desert vistas and the noble men and women of Taos Pueblo, seemingly untouched by time....but not for long. The documentary will also explore how the artists' unique relationship with railroad advertising departments helped turn their paintings of an isolated Taos into iconic images –while at the same time beckoning the outside world in.

At the heart of this documentary, are the artists' own work and their own words. Digital filming allows amazing views of the art masterpieces of this era. Their letters and diaries provide intimate details of their struggle to build careers in a rough frontier town and their ongoing love affair with the crisp air of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and muddy streets of the Taos Pueblo. This documentary is complemented by beautiful location footage of their studios and the sites where some of their most famous paintings were created, as well as family photographs and draft sketches, many never publicly seen before.

This is a story of Taos—the one of a kind place that inspired two dusty travelers to change plans, and continues to provide painters, filmmakers, jewelers, and musicians with that “unforgettable inspiration.”

To order a copy of this DVD or for more information, please call: (505) 277-2922 or Toll Free (888) 482-0730.

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