

January 16 through March 13, 2022

Artistic Interpretations of Coronado Heights

works from the collection of
Debra Scalet and others



Coronado Heights, East Approach by
Rose Marie Wallen

Collector Debra Scalet's Statement

Who doesn't fall in love with our Coronado Heights when they first visit? When one reaches the summit, you are on the top of the world looking over the majestic prairies and your senses are awakened!

My love developed when I was just a kid around 12 years old. Many a time, my Mother would pack me a lunch and send me off with my friends, for an all-day walking hike to Coronado Heights. My love for the Heights expanded into the arts – so many artist have their own concept of how to draw the beloved Heights. Many years ago, I decided to start collecting all of the Coronado Heights paintings I could find – I hope you enjoy them as much as I do. Coronado Height's is loved for not just the young, but the old as well.

Additional Information About Coronado Heights

Birger Sandzén had a long association with Coronado Heights and painted it often. The north wall showcases a chronological selection of his works from the Gallery's permanent collection. The Gallery is very thankful to Deb Scalet for inspiring this exhibition and loaning works from her collection. Other people deserving thanks and loaning works are Shirley Dahlsten, Joy and Shannon Everhart, Sue Godwin, Michael Jilg, Marsha and Brad Howe, and Beth and Bill Olson.

From the website naturalkansas.org/Coronado:

The castle at Coronado Heights was constructed by the Works Progress Administration in 1932. They also built the stone picnic sites, restroom, and stone front gate at the park. Coronado Heights is a prominent, isolated hill overlooking the Smoky Hill River valley. It is the last of a row of erosional hills extending to the north which are capped by the sandstone of the Dakota Formation. It is 300

feet above the surrounding valley floor, offering sweeping vistas of the surrounding countryside. The eroded face of Coronado Heights reveals a panorama of geological history as well, covering 230 million years of time. At its base are gray and red shales that made up the floor of an ancient salt water sea. At the top is the Dakota Sandstone, a mixture of marine, fresh water and subtropical fossil material.

Coronado Heights has mixed prairie with numerous wildflowers. Yucca, spiderwort and butterfly milkweed are just a few of the species that may be seen there. A forested area nestles around the north and east sides of the hill. Clumps of sandhill plum, gooseberry and sumac may be found. The park is contiguous with a large native prairie pasture extending to the north and northwest.

The Smoky Valley Historical Association (SVHA) parent organization obtained the land for a park in 1919 from two pioneer Swedish farm families. The SVHA built the walking trail and auto road to the top along with a shelter house and flag stand in the early 1920's. The park was deeded to Saline County in 1936 for management after the WPA work and reverted back to the SVHA in 1988. It has been managed by them since that time. In 1988 a special monument for Coronado was designed and built by Lindsborg artist John Whitfield, the Smoky Valley Historical Association, and volunteers.

Artists with works in the exhibition:

Lee Becker
Kim Casebeer
Shirley Dahlsten
Ralph Fontenot
Maleta Forsberg
Sue Godwin
Margaret Sandzén Greenough
Michael Jilg

Mary Marsh Buff
Carl Wm. Peterson
Birger Sandzén
Nichole Thibodeau
Ray Troll
Rose Marie Wallen
Margaret Whittemore
Omer Wilson



Birger Sandzén
- MEMORIAL GALLERY -

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.