

New beginnings

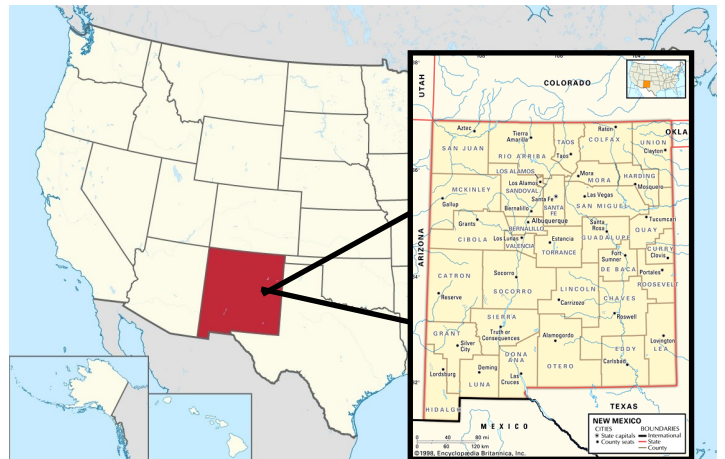
An American Story of Romantics and Modernists in the West FAMILY GUIDE



The artists in this exhibit were inspired by the **land** and **people** in the state of **New Mexico**. Two cities in New Mexico, the cities of **Taos** and **Santa Fe**, were especially inspirational to these artists. To **inspire** is to fill someone with the urge to do or feel something—especially to be creative!

How can a place be inspiring? Is there a place that inspires you?

Indigenous Native Americans have lived on the land in New Mexico for about **12,000 years**. New Mexico was claimed by the **Spanish** in the 16th century and later became part of Mexico. After the **Mexican-American war in 1848** the territory became a part of the United States of America. Today the state is nicknamed the **Land of Enchantment**.



E. Martin Hennings, *Beneath Clouded Skies*, c. 1922,
TIA Collection

When artists began visiting New Mexico they noticed something unusual—they claimed the air was clearer, the colors were brighter, and the sky was bigger. The land and mountains in New Mexico are perfect for painting **landscapes**! Artists were also fascinated by the Spanish and Native **cultures** there. Many of the Indigenous people continued living in traditional **Pueblos**—Native American homes often made of stone or adobe clay with flat roofs.

Find this painting E. Martin Hennings, stand in front of it. Look and discuss, what do you think the artist most admired about New Mexico?

THE BOOTH MUSEUM

The artwork in this exhibit was created during a time when **American art** was changing. Many artists felt that it was no longer interesting to paint **representational** art (art that shows people and things as they appear in real life) and began experimenting with new styles. One of these styles is called **abstract art**, a way of painting that shows the **idea** of a person, place or emotion through shape, color and form.

Find the painting by Emil Bisttram called The Family. What do you see in this painting? Do you see people, or a family? How do you feel about this work of art?



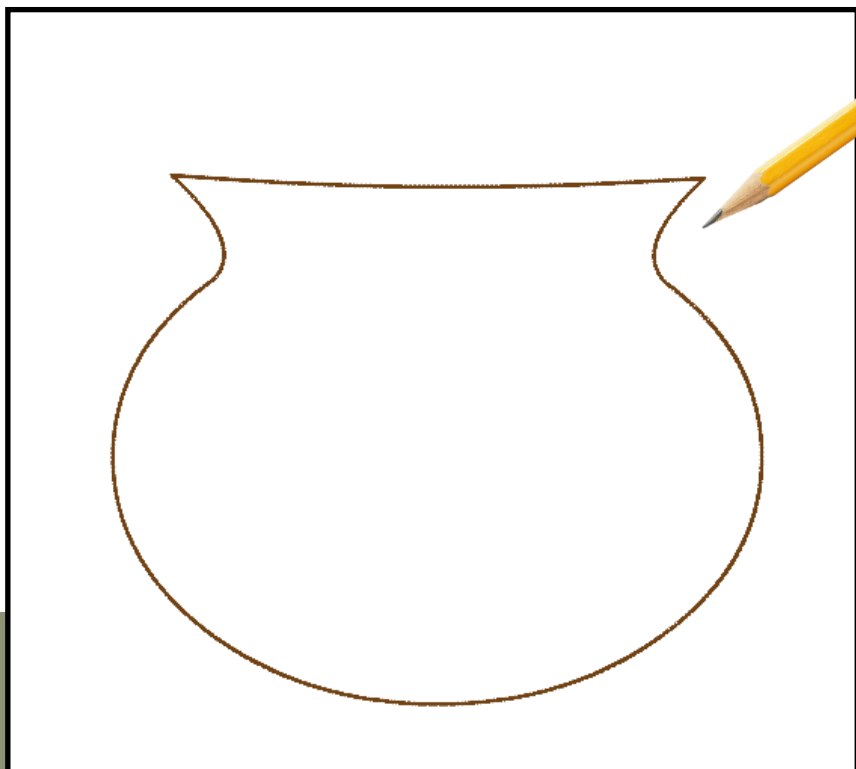
Emil Bisttram, *The Family*, 1937, TIA Collection

In the gallery there is a painting by artist William Birney called ***Pueblo Still Life***. See if you can find it! The painting features a piece of pottery created by the **Acoma Pueblo** people. The Acoma people have been creating pottery in this style since the pueblo was founded in 1150 AD.

Designs on Acoma pottery are usually **geometric** and sometimes represent animals or nature. Look at the jar in the painting and compare it to the jar at the bottom. Try designing your own version **here!**



William Birney, *Pueblo Still Life*, 1888, TIA Collection



Acoma Pueblo, *Jar/Olla*, Date Unknown, National Museum of the American Indian