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# The Muse

December 2017



## On The Cover

Untitled  
by Bill Walton

Billy Dale Walton was born July 19 41, in Lahoma, Oklahoma and his artistic potential was recognized as early as his primary school years, according to a biography written by Connie Walton. Bill and Connie were married in January 1963 and moved to El Dorado because of the influence and friendship the Walton's shared with Hall Coutts in 1983.

Bill's first art studio in El Dorado was located in the garage of their home, "heated by a kerosene stove in the winter and cooled by fans in the summer", states Connie. In 1995, on 304 N Main, in downtown El Dorado, Bill opened his first art gallery and remained there for five years until the gallery moved a few blocks down to 135 1/2 N Main. In 2000, when the art studio relocated, Connie's framing became part of the studio. Here they remained until relocating their home, studio, gallery, and framing business once again in El Dorado.

The cover photo is part of the collection on display by the Waltons long-time friends Jim and Connie Phillips. When staff asked Bill where the inspiration for paintings Santa's came from, Bill stated that he "just liked Santa!" but Connie remembers that she always used to collect Santas and Bill started painting them for her personal collection. Through the years, those who have visited and commented on her collection inspired Bill to paint them for others, adding personal touches to prints and paintings for those who requested them.

The Waltons wish to thank the community of El Dorado and Jim and Connie Phillips for all the support given to Bill and his growth as an artist. Their home and gallery are open to those who wish to come and view Bill's work, but ask that those interested call for an appointment at 316.621.0902.



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## Coutts Announces Very First Intern – Isabella Rausch

Isabella (Belle) Rausch is the very first intern at the Coutts Museum of Art. Belle studied art throughout high school, and is currently enrolled at Butler Community College (BCC) on a Visual Art Scholarship.

When she's not at the BCC studio, Belle states that she is either at the movie theatre, drinking coffee with her friends, or at home perfecting my winged eyeliner."

Belle will be working with staff to inventory all art and art objects belonging to the Coutts using our new museum database system (PastPerfect). Belle will additionally help prepare the art and art objects not on display for storage using museum appropriate archival procedures.

Belle states that she plans to attend Kansas University in the fall to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in History of Art and hopes to "pursue a career in curating, whether it be in a museum or a gallery." We will hate to lose her!

The purpose for an internship is to facilitate student learning opportunities outside the classroom. These real world experiences enhance a student's academic and career goals. While Belle is not seeking academic credit for her internship, the experience she will acquire will provide her not only with a few lines on her resume, but we hope that her experience will lead to a career and life-long love of preserving art for generations to come!

Please stop in and say hello to Belle. You will find her here most afternoons!



## Message from the President

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you a very Merry Christmas, and joyous holiday season!

The year 2017 has been an exciting year at the Coutts! I want all of you who support our great museum to know the Board of Trustees believes we have hired an outstanding and professional staff. Tim Howard, Raven Dickson, and Sheila Yrjanainen are doing a great job. We especially feel that in Tim Howard, we have for the first time in the museum's history, brought a true museum professional on board as Executive Director. We knew the task that was laid before the new Director would be tall; but actually it has proved daunting. I am happy to report that under Tim's leadership the museum is in the best shape in its history; both from a physical standpoint – where the museum is cleaner, better organized, and more inviting to the public than ever before; and from a systems and processes perspective – where our new team has organized our records and financial data, and brought these areas up-to-date. Members of our Board, including Diane Poeschel and especially Steve Worrell, have been very helpful in assisting Tim and his staff.

We have been working very closely with Vince Haines, and Gravity Works Architecture, to refine and finalize the plans for our expansion. Having Tim and Raven's expertise in this project has been invaluable.

Based on staff recommendations, the Board of Trustees has adopted a new membership program for 2018. Details of the program appeared in last month's newsletter. If you have not already, you will soon receive the annual membership renewal application. If you have any questions about our new program, please call the museum, call me, or call any member of our Board. We will be happy to visit with you.

From our children's educational programming to the new adult events that have already occurred and are planned for the future, it is clear the Coutts is headed in a vibrant new direction. We appreciate your continuing support, both monetarily, and as volunteers. The year 2018 will be even more exciting. For example, the Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series will be among the best ever! If you or your business would be interested in sponsoring one of the concerts, please call the museum.

Our best wishes for a Happy New Year and a very prosperous 2018!

Sincerely,

Steve Funk  
President



# 2018 Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series Line Up

January - *Sky Smeed*  
Sponsored by: Gravity Works

February - *Rusty Rierson*

March - *Wichita Grand Opera*

April - *Rojean Loucks*

May - *Emily Strom*

June - *Dustin Arbuckle & Wayne Long*

July - *Don Koke & Andy Koke*

August - *Wayne & Arthetta Long*

September - *Dustin Arbuckle,  
Tom Page, & Dennis Hardin*

October - *New Prairie Moon*

November - *Anne Wilson & Carl Reed*

December - *Rusty Rierson* (Christmas program)

Interested in sponsoring one of the 2018 Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series? Here is a list of opportunities:

*Adagio* - \$300  
*Andante* - \$600  
*Allegretto* - \$1,200  
*Vivace* - \$2,400  
*Prestissimo* - \$3,600

For more information on the benefits of each sponsorship please contact Raven at 316.321.1212 or [raven@coultsmuseum.org](mailto:raven@coultsmuseum.org).

The Coultts Museum of Art is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit institution dedicated to supporting art and art education in the community, the region, and to its visitors.

Your sponsorship for the 2018 Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series is a 100% charitable contribution.

# Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series

December 19, 2017  
Noon-1:00 p.m.

Join us on Tuesday, December 19, from noon to 1:00 p.m. for some great music as the Coultts Museum of Art welcomes Dustin Arbuckle, Dennis Hardin, and Tom Page to its Brown Bag Lunch Concert. Bring your lunch and join us as these three members of the Haymakers share their passion for Americana music. Water, coffee, tea, and some light snacks provided. Join us and get away from the grind for an hour!



Arbuckle, Page, and Hardin play Americana themed music with country, blues, folk, and bluegrass roots, which they like to call "dustbowl rock." They are all part of the Haymakers, a five-person, Wichita-based band. Arbuckle, Page, and Hardin are influenced by such artists as Muddy Waters, Jimmy Reed, Doc Watson, Django Reinhardt, and Ralph Stanley, just to name a few.

