



SHARP PAINTINGS REUNITED AFTER 100 YEARS

Two large still life paintings of apples initially purchased from Joseph Henry Sharp by Charles Bair in 1908 will be included in the show "In Poetic Silence," now opened at the Bair Museum. This will mark the first time in 103 years that these two paintings have been reunited and displayed in a museum show.

The new Charles M. Bair Family Museum will feature a special temporary exhibit of work by one of the most beloved painters in America, Joseph Henry Sharp, through September 25, 2011. Sharp, best known for his paintings of North American Indians and for his evocative landscapes of the west, produced a large body of floral paintings, still lifes of peony bouquets, wild asters, sage, daffodils, dahlias and many other flowers - that all began with a box of Red Delicious apples.

"We are honoured and grateful to those who have lent us paintings from their private collections, including Guil Reynolds Mullen, Thomas and Abigail Minckler, and others for this amazing exhibition of brilliant flower paintings, and for the first ever opportunity to reunite two still lifes of apples painted by Sharp in 1908," states the Bair Museum's Director and Chief Curator Elizabeth Guheen. Thomas Minckler's book, *In Poetic Silence: The Floral Paintings of Joseph Henry Sharp*, provides the inspiration for this exhibit of ten paintings.

Many people who have toured the Bair Home on Martinsdale are familiar with the story. In 1907 Charlie Bair sent Sharp a bushel of Red Delicious apples for Christmas, and "the gift inspired Sharp to paint two renditions of the apples," writes Minckler. "The two paintings are precursors to Sharp's later floral tabletop paintings, particularly in composition." Bair bought both paintings in 1908 and gave one to their mutual friend, Crow Indian Agent Samuel Guilford Reynolds. Thanks to the Reynolds family, this exhibition marks the first time in 103 years that the paintings are reunited.

It is a little known fact that Joseph Sharp, an artist best known for his renditions of North American Indians, also painted more still lifes than any historical artist who had painted in the West. *In Poetic Silence*, written by Thomas Minckler and published in 2010, reveals the story behind this little known facet of artist's career.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Joseph Henry Sharp, *Still Life with Apples and Holly*, 1908. Oil on canvas; 22.5 x 29.5 inches. Bair Collection

Joseph Henry Sharp, *Still Life of Box of Delicious Apples*, 1908. Oil on canvas; 24 x 36 inches. Collection of Guil Reynolds Mullen