

# TACOMA ART MUSEUM

MEDIA RELEASE

March 15, 2017

Contact: Alyce McNeil, 253-272-4258 x3002 or [AMcNeil@TacomaArtMuseum.org](mailto:AMcNeil@TacomaArtMuseum.org)

## Sculpting from nature: Meet artist Veryl Goodnight at TAM



**Tacoma, WA** – The graceful, life-like forms of Veryl Goodnight’s *Spirit of Autumn* almost leap from atop their pedestal in the Haub Family Galleries at Tacoma Art Museum ([TAM](#)). Admirers can meet the artist in person on Sunday, March 26, at 2 pm. Goodnight is presenting a talk as the third installment of TAM’s [Christine Mollring and Jennifer E. Sands Artist Lecture Series](#), which focuses on contemporary artists of the American West.

[Goodnight](#) lives on a mountainous, 57-acre range west of Durango, Colorado,

overlooking [Mesa Verde National Park](#). The rugged surrounding terrain provides inspiration and subjects for many of her works. Largely a self-taught artist, Goodnight has always believed in working from live models, aiming to capture each animal’s individuality in her sculptures.

“Working from life was initially an excuse to be outdoors and near the horses, birds, and many other animals that shared my life ... Having a living, breathing model nearby not only provides information that a thousand photos couldn’t convey, it keeps me excited,” Goodnight shared on her website. “The subtle differences of each living being have become my passion, whether I am sculpting or painting.”

Goodnight’s sculptures are included in many corporate and private collections in the United States, Europe, and Japan, along with collections at museums and cultural institutions. She describes her notable seven-ton sculpture [The Day The Wall Came Down](#) as a monument to freedom; it is installed at the George Bush Presidential Library; a second casting was delivered to the Allied Museum of Berlin in 1998 and unveiled by former President George Bush. Additional monuments include works at the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, the Houston Astrodome, the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame Museum in Colorado Springs, the Miyama Building in Tokyo, and more.

A highly-sought instructor, Goodnight has taught sculpture at Foch Institute in Taos, New Mexico and the Scottsdale Artist’s School in Scottsdale, Arizona. Now, she teaches sculpting

workshops at her studio in Colorado. In 2016, she was honored as an inductee to the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in October.



Arrive early on March 26 and take in the last day of TAM's exhibition [Coast to Cascades: C. C. McKim's Impressionist Vision](#), highlighting this impressionist painter from Oregon. See his beautiful, landscapes filled with diffused light, and learn about his vital role in the spread of impressionism in our region.

Then, spend an hour with Goodnight, and hear directly from this fascinating contemporary artist of the American West. Enjoy an opportunity to ask questions about her life and her artistic process.

Stay after the lecture for a reception and more artful conversation!

[Lecture tickets](#) are available in advance; seating is limited. Purchase via [TAM's website](#) by going to the Events Calendar and clicking on March 26, or at the museum's Visitor Services desk. \$10 general, \$5 TAM members and students with ID. Note, tickets for the lecture do not include museum admission.

###

**Image credits, top to bottom:**

**Veryl Goodnight**, *Spirit of Autumn*, 1984. Bronze, 16 x 24 x 12 inches. Tacoma Art Museum, Haub Family Collection, Gift of Erivan and Helga Haub.

**Photo of Veryl Goodnight**, Courtesy of Claude Stillman.

**About Tacoma Art Museum**

Tacoma Art Museum is an anchor in the city's downtown and a gathering space for connecting people through art. TAM's collection contains nearly 5,000 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on continuous view; the most significant museum collection of jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. In 2014, TAM welcomed a gift of 295 works of western American art in the Haub Family Collection, one of the premier collections in the nation and the first major western American art museum collection in the Northwest. The Haub gift included \$20 million for new galleries and endowed funds. The Haub Family Galleries opened in 2014. In January 2016, TAM announced the gift of the Benaroya Collection, including 225 works of art. The donation also includes nearly \$14 million in funding for new gallery space to showcase the collection and an endowment for a dedicated curator and care for the collection. The Benaroya wing is expected to open in late 2018.

**HOURS** – Tuesdays–Sundays 10 am–5 pm, Third Thursdays 10 am–8 pm; Third Thursdays free from 5-8 pm.

**ADMISSION** – Adult \$15, Student/Military/Senior (65+) \$13, Family \$40 (2 adults and up to 4 children under 18). Children 5 and under free. Members always free.

**CONTACT** – 253-272-4258, [www.TacomaArtMuseum.org](http://www.TacomaArtMuseum.org), [info@TacomaArtMuseum.org](mailto:info@TacomaArtMuseum.org)