

ELLEN TRUE'S *West*

A Collaborative Exhibition
An Early 20th Century Colorado Artist
OCTOBER 2, 2009 - MARCH 28, 2010

VENUE LOCATIONS

West is a three-part exhibition. Admission to the History Museum and Denver Public Library is free. Admission tickets must be purchased at the Denver Art

Denver Art Museum

Hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 10 A.M.–5 P.M., A.M.–10 P.M., Saturday 10 A.M.–5 P.M., Sunday 11 A.M.–5 P.M. The museum is closed every Monday. For general information, visit www.denverartmuseum.org or call 303.733.1000. The museum is on 13th Avenue between Broadway and Chippewa Streets, just south of Civic Center. Parking is available in the Cultural Complex Garage; enter at 12th Avenue and Broadway.

Denver Public Library

Hours: closed on major holidays. Denver's award-winning Central Library features a whimsical children's library, summer reading programs, story times, public computers, and cultural programming for children and adults. DPL's world-class western history materials include maps, rare books, and manuscripts. Visit denverlibrary.org or call (720) 865-1111.

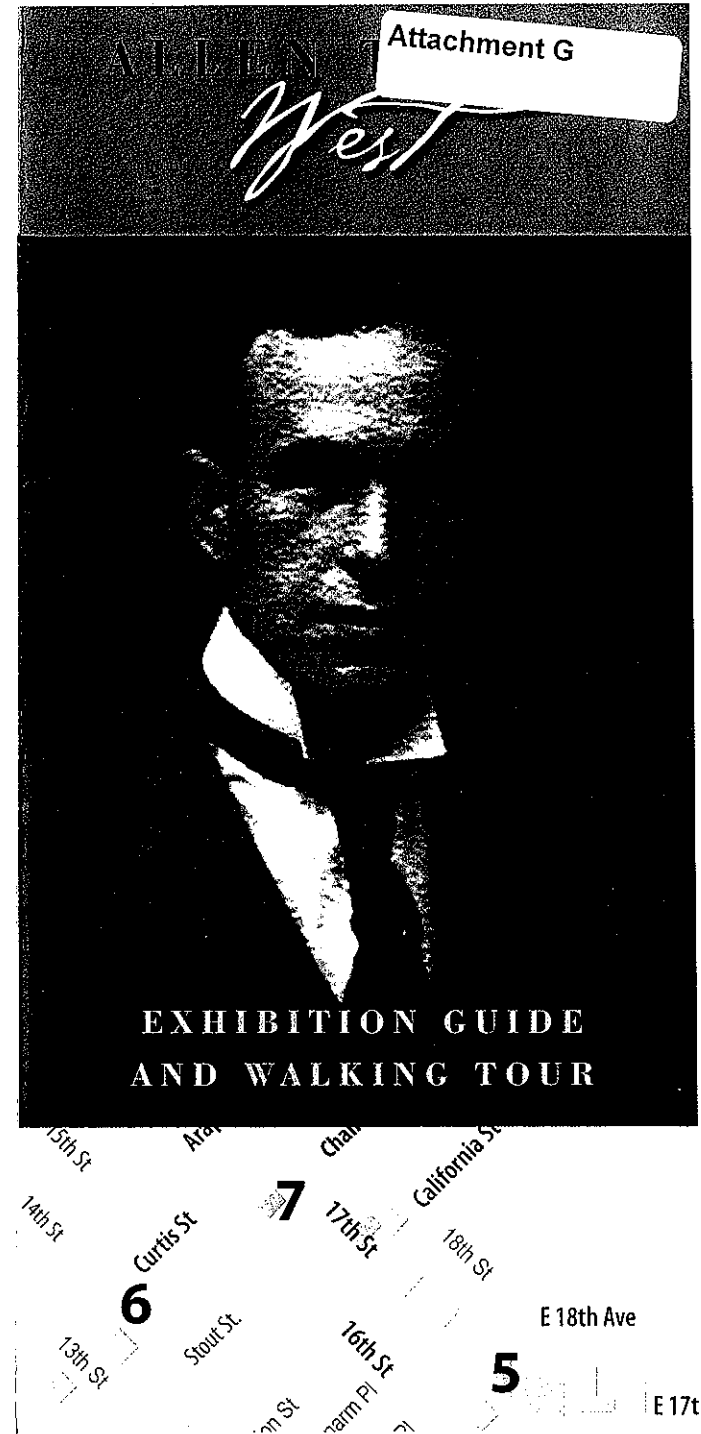
Colorado History Museum

The Colorado History Museum at 1300 Broadway in Denver is a premier Colorado site. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 A.M.–5 P.M., and Sunday noon–5 P.M. History Colorado is the state's premier organization for programs, services, statewide museums, and historic sites of the Colorado Historical Society. Visit www.coloradohistory.org or call 303.666-3682.

DENVER ART MUSEUM

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

HISTORY Colorado COLORADO HISTORY MUSEUM



ALLEN TRUE'S WEST EXHIBITION GUIDE AND WALKING TOUR

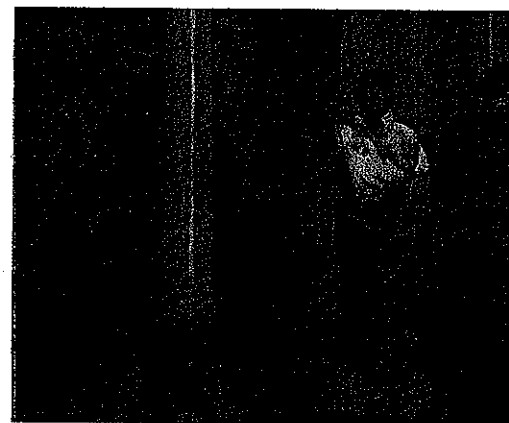


Portrait of the Artist, 1908, Edith Marbut Collection.

Allen Tupper True (1881–1955) in his heyday enjoyed a place among the highest ranks of artists in the Rocky Mountain West. Over the first half of the twentieth century he forged a career as an illustrator, as a fine-art painter, and finally as the region's premier muralist. This exhibition, sponsored by a three-member consortium of Colorado's primary visual art and history institutions—the Denver Art Museum, Denver Public Library, and Colorado Historical Society—is reawakening interest in the too-often neglected luminary of the western art scene.

To get the full Allen True story be sure to visit all three venues. The Denver Public Library's Western History and Genealogy galleries will explore True's work in illustration, the Denver Art Museum his easel paintings, and the Colorado History Museum True's murals. But don't stop there! Experience True's art throughout the city using this walking tour map—available at all three institutions and online at www.history.denverlibrary.org/AllenTruesWest. And don't miss *Allen True's West*—the documentary produced by Colorado Public Television, KBDI, Channel 12 to chronicle True's contribution to art and to Colorado.

Allen True's West is presented by the Denver Art Museum in association with the Colorado Historical Society and the Denver Public Library. This exhibition is sponsored by the True Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the JFM Foundation, Edith Marbut, Tom and Jane Petrie, Raymond and Sally Duncan, Crimson Resource Management, Leptas Foundation, Rob and Julie Lewis, Redd Foundation, Bruce and Dorothy Dines, Jim and Lucy Wallace, Alan and Carol Ann Olson, Joan True McKibben, Mr. and Mrs. Will F. Nicholson, Jr., David Cook Fine Arts Galleries, and Mr. and Mrs. Barton M. Johnson. We also recognize the generosity of the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District and the donors to the DAM Annual Fund Leadership Campaign.



Mountain Telephone Construction, Study for Denver Telephone Building 1927, Courtesy of Joan True McKibben.

www.history.denverlibrary.org/AllenTruesWest

DENVER CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING
 1437 Bannock Street
 Accessible any weekday

Working with the architects and submitting a proposal in 1931, True first tried to win a mural commission in the City and County Building's planning phase. Select courtrooms were designed to accommodate murals, and True wanted to visually tell stories of frontier law and order for future generations. But the onset of the Great Depression put his ideas on hold. Not until 1950 was True able to decorate the probate court with *Frontier Trial* and the clerks' offices with *Miners Court*. Judge Robert W. Steele approved the commissions in 1945, using funding from revenues generated within the courts system. The murals went into place in July 1950.



Frontier Trial, Denver Probate Court Clerk's Office, Room 230. S1L86



Miners Court, Denver District Court Clerk's Office, Room 250. S1L85



Bison, Colorado Historical Society photo. 10039523



Elk, Colorado Historical Society photo. 10039523

VOORHIES MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER

North side of park
 Accessible any day

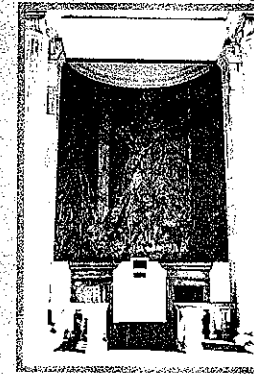
True painted the elk and buffalo murals in the Voorhies Memorial in Denver's Civic Center in 1920. The park was another anchor in Mayor Speer's master "City Beautiful" plan to elevate Denver into a first-tier American city. Only MP Voorhies was the banker and mining magnate who funded the memorial and lived across the street from it. Although True painted the murals on canvas, these are among the ones he painted directly on the surface of the cement. Today, the murals need restoration.

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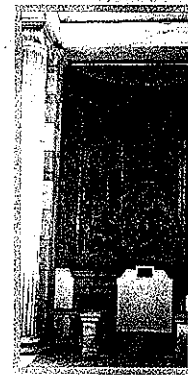
GREEK THEATER, CIVIC CENTER

South side of park
 Accessible any day

Allen True painted *The Trapper* and *The Prospector* in 1920. The widow of Denver attorney Charles H. Toll funded the murals in her late husband's honor. True painted the murals while living in New Mexico, where he spent several years studying and painting during extended stays in Santa Fe and Taos. The trapper and prospector won out over four other themes—music, settlers, miners, and council—that True had developed for the theater. The Greek Theater was a key element in Mayor Robert Speer's "City Beautiful" master plan. The murals were restored in 1970 with city and county funding.



The Trapper, Colorado Historical Society photo. 10039524

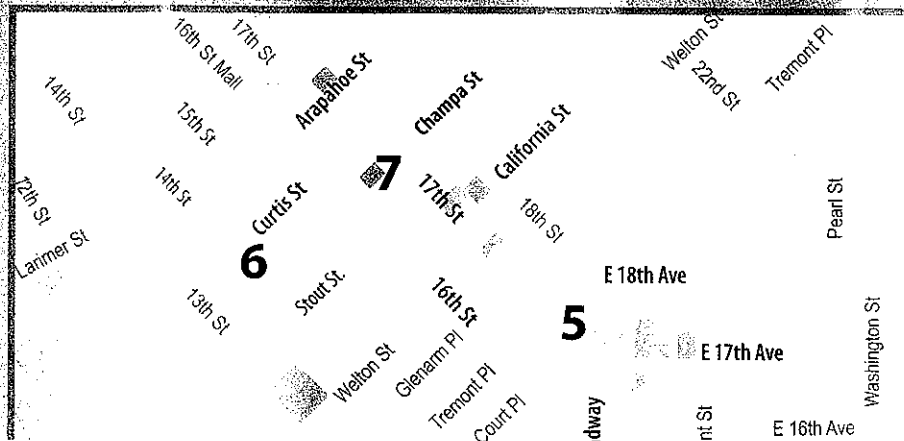


The Prospector, Colorado Historical Society photo.

ALLEN TRUE'S



WALKING TOUR MAP

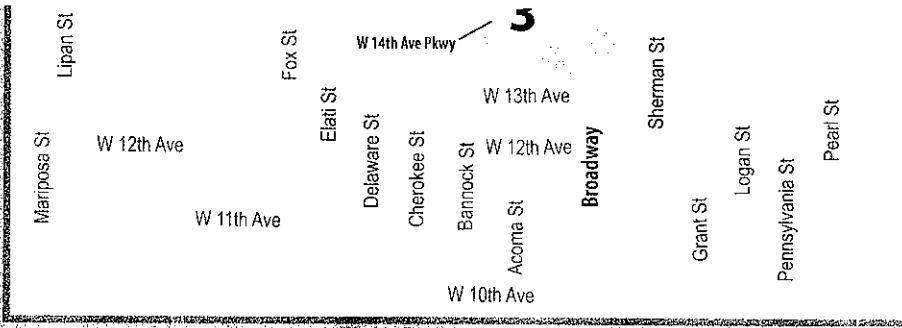


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COLORADO STAT
 200 East Colfax,
 Accessible week

One of True's fine achievements res Colorado State Co the base of the rc stairway that the fifty years to get decorating. True I design in 1934 wi Works Administr program. He pain studies showing significance to th (The studies are Colorado Historic That project lang

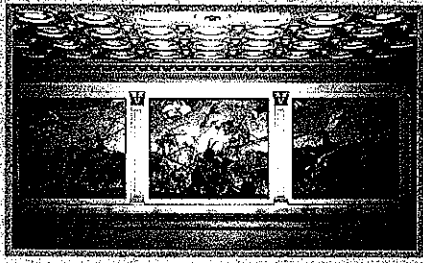




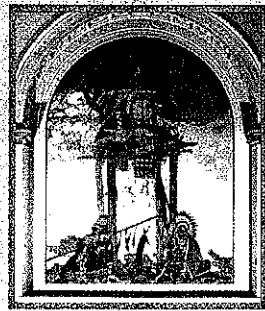
COLORADO NATIONAL BANK
17th and Champa Streets
 Accessible by appointment

Some of True's best work can still be seen in the Colorado National Bank building, designed by True's architect friends William and Arthur Fisher. True installed the first four murals in 1922. With a 1923 expansion of the bank, three of the four were saved and reinstalled; he added the final three in 1925. In the *Indian Memories* series, True paid respect to American Indian life by creating a spiritual reminiscence of Indian culture framed within a natural lifecycle. True used the key figure in the paintings to take us back in time and visualize Native American life prior to the arrival of settlers.

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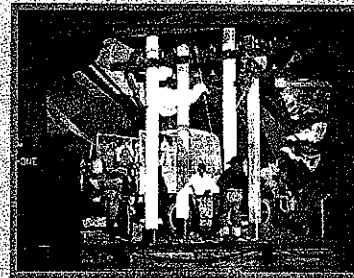
Buffalo Hunt, S1L9-11



Happy Hunting Ground, S1L24



The Wings of Thought, Inner lobby, Fourteenth Street entrance, S1L53



Mountain Telephone Construction, Outer lobby, Fourteenth Street entrance, S1L48

MOUNTAIN STATES TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH BUILDING
14th and Curtis Streets
 Two exterior lobbies accessible any day

This building gave True a rare opportunity to collaborate with both customer and architect from inception. William N. Bowman's exquisite American Perpendicular design was crafted using Colorado materials and labor. Having worked on phone company crews in his youth, True knew firsthand the challenges of keeping phone lines working in Colorado's mountains. The colorful Fourteenth Street outer-lobby murals show his intimate knowledge of the tools of the trade as he tells a story of a growing city and industry. In the inner lobby, True depicts the key contributors to a 1927 fourteen-story telephone switch in downtown Denver. The murals in the Curtis Street entrance—showing historic communication techniques and the "Spirit of Service"—welcomed customers paying their bills.

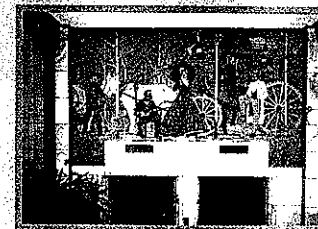


Hydro-Electric Plant, Harnessing Water Power, S1L73

True collaborated with poet John Hornsby Ferrill, a Colorado's poet laureate. Together they created a visual story of a poetic one. True's study painting colorful and dynamic first. Installed in murals, have visible the rotunda.

BROWN PALACE HOTEL
321 17th Street
 Accessible any day

True's murals in the elegant Brown Palace can be seen in lobby above the elevators. True painted the murals in 19 and—as with the capitol—his patron was Charles Boettcher, the owner of the hotel. True chose a transportation then reflected his interest in western history with *The Stagecoach* and his fascination with contemporary technology in *Airplane Travel*. Some claim that the woman descending from the plane modeled after famed athlete Babe Didrikson Zaharias and the man in the trench coat is the reclusive billionaire aviator Howard Hughes. Given the size of the airplane, True struggled to keep the scales of the two murals compatible without dwarfing the other.



Stage Coach, S1L39



Airplane Travel, S1L40