



## KIRKLAND MUSEUM OF FINE & DECORATIVE ART REOPENS

FRIDAY, AUG. 27

*Long-awaited exhibition “Truth, Beauty and Power: Christopher Dresser and The Aesthetic Movement” opens with Museum*

**Denver, Aug. 11, 2021** – Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art welcomes visitors back beginning Friday, Aug. 27. The full Museum will reopen along with a temporary exhibition “[Truth, Beauty and Power: Christopher Dresser and The Aesthetic Movement](#),” featuring the beautiful five-legged chair recently attributed to British designer Christopher Dresser. Kirkland Museum resumes regular business hours of Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Pre-purchased timed tickets are no longer required, though patrons may pre-purchase tickets [online](#) before visiting.

“The Museum is back!” promises Associate Museum Director Renée Albiston. “We can’t wait to welcome visitors again to immerse themselves in our beautiful collection and galleries.”

Kirkland Museum is excited to reopen with a newly displayed painting, *Four Suns in Space*, 1971, by Vance Kirkland, featured at the end of the promenade on the studio wall.

### **About Truth, Beauty and Power: Christopher Dresser and The Aesthetic Movement**

Exhibition visitors will learn more about this lesser-known design movement through an exploration of common motifs used in designs from the Aesthetic Movement (c. 1865–1900) and the influence of British designer Christopher Dresser (1834–1904). This exhibition showcases works from the Museum’s permanent collections, many never seen before.

Running Aug. 27 through Jan. 2, access to the exhibition is included in general admission. Virtual tours and a virtual lecture are being planned for the exhibition.

Presented by Deputy Curator Christopher Herron, chosen from the collection assembled by Founding Director & Curator Hugh Grant. Co-curated by Collections & Research Manager Becca Goodrum and Director of Interpretation Maya Wright.

### **About the Dresser Discovery**

Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art announced in March findings from new research attributing the design of a beautiful five-legged chair to famous British designer Christopher Dresser. Kirkland Museum is likely the first museum in the United States to display this chair with this attribution.

Museum curatorial staff, working with international experts, uncovered the exciting new attribution of the chair which has been on view with Arts & Crafts and Aesthetic Movement designs at Kirkland Museum since May 2018, with no designer identified.

“In conjunction with our exhibition opening with the Museum on Aug. 27, we are delighted to announce that per Harry Lyons and Dorman Museum, we believe this chair was designed by Christopher Dresser,” says Associate Museum Director Renée Albiston. “The chair was always intriguing, lovely and extraordinarily good design, and is only enhanced by this connection to one of the central designers of the era.”

### **Visiting the Museum**

Enhanced sanitization and frequent daily cleanings are still implemented throughout the building. Timed tickets are no longer required. Online tickets are available for pre-purchase and walk-in visitors are welcome. In accordance with CDC guidelines, unvaccinated visitors are encouraged to wear masks. As a reminder: the Museum building features a state-of-the-art dual-air HVAC system designed to constantly create a mix of outside and inside air. Visitors age 13 and older are welcome.

Kirkland Museum is operated in accordance with guidelines established by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment and the City and County of Denver. Due to the uncertainties of COVID-19, plans are subject to change. See [KirklandMuseum.org](http://KirklandMuseum.org) for the latest updates and to plan your visit.

### **About the Closure**

Kirkland Museum closed Feb. 15 due to water damage from a burst pipe during the polar vortex that froze much of Denver. A staged restoration brought the Museum back to pre-flood condition with repairs on all three levels of the building.

Damage to the Museum was mitigated by the swift response from Kirkland Museum staff, the facilities management team and a restoration contractor. Building finishes,

rather than the artwork, sustained most of the impact because Museum staff immediately moved around 1,000 pieces out of harm's way, eventually moving more than 4,000. Vance Kirkland's Historic Studio & Art School Building was completely untouched by the flood.

All three floors of the building required extensive cosmetic repairs including drywall and replacing or refinishing all of the flooring which meant emptying nearly every gallery except for the Studio.

Artwork touched by water was evaluated and any necessary restoration completed. Of over 30,000 works currently in the Museum's collection, only a handful of works on paper suffered permanent damage. Most of the artwork that got wet is back at the Museum and being redisplayed.

For more information, visit [www.KirklandMuseum.org](http://www.KirklandMuseum.org). For photography, please click [here](#).

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### **MEDIA CONTACT on behalf of Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art**

Katie Converse, Peri Marketing & Public Relations, 720-979-4530 or [katie@perimarketing.com](mailto:katie@perimarketing.com)

### **About Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art**

Kirkland Museum is dedicated to enriching lives by presenting art and design in a unique and approachable way. The Museum is rediscovering, documenting, collecting, preserving and exhibiting works from over 150 years, beginning in the mid-19th century, of Colorado's distinguished art history, international decorative art and the works of Vance Kirkland (1904–1981). The Museum serves the general public and scholars through exhibitions, the loan of works and public programs.