



Brigham Young University Museum of Art

SPRING SYMPOSIUM: MARCH 23-25, 2023

Maynard Dixon

Searching for a Home:

Painted and Poetic Imagination in the American West

Extended
deadline!

Best known for his iconic and dramatic depictions of the West, Maynard Dixon was entranced by America's open landscape and the people who made it home. Popular and commercial illustrations of western subjects, social realist views of the Great Depression, modernist-tinged and geometrically propulsive landscapes, and quiet portraits of desert life, all found place in Dixon's painted world.

In connection with the exhibition *Maynard Dixon: Searching for a Home*, the Brigham Young University Museum of Art invites papers from scholars working on topics related to Maynard Dixon and the worlds he inhabited and painted. Drawing from the largest museum collection of Maynard Dixon's work, this exhibition and symposium seek to expand Dixon's presence in American art discourse and to examine the real and romanticized components of the western world he loved and helped to create.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Erika Doss, Professor of American Studies, University of Notre Dame

Eleanor Jones Harvey, Senior Curator, Smithsonian American Art Museum

Papers may address, but need not be limited to the following topics:

- Dixon's western landscape
- Dixon's illustration and advertising career
- The peoples of the West
- Representation of Indigenous subjects
- Land usage and settlement
- Dixon's poetry; the relationships between painted and poetic imagery
- The power of place
- Landscape and identity
- Dixon and his friends and family (including but not limited to Dorothea Lange and Edith Hamlin)
- The Great Depression in American Art and Visual Culture
- Industrialization of the places Dixon knew and worked
- "Nvorczk"
- Dixon's later career
- The commercialization of Dixon and his work
- Dixon's reputation over time

Please send an abstract of up to 500 words and a short bio to the symposium organizing committee at moa_education@byu.edu by **December 1, 2022**. We encourage proposals that emphasize unique insights from scholars and artists at all stages of their careers and from a diversity of backgrounds. We plan to publish selected submissions in a forthcoming anthology.

See <https://moa.byu.edu/all-events/symposium-maynard-dixon/> for more information about the symposium.