

# All in the Family

BY TOM LEECH AND DANIEL KOSHAREK



**Ann Baumann with marionettes**, ca. 1936. Photographer unknown. Courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMHM/DCA), Neg. No. HP.2011.07.07.

Gustave Baumann’s name has been consistently linked to the New Mexico Museum of Art for nearly all of its marvelous hundred years. Gus, his wife, Jane, and their daughter, Ann, contributed to the museum in many ways. To salute the New Mexico Museum of Art on its one-hundredth birthday, we looked in the Photo Archives at the Palace of the Governors for an image to represent Baumann as someone other than a world-renowned printmaker. Within the artist’s bag of tricks was his skill at making marionettes, and in this picture from 1936, nine-year-old Ann Baumann poses with marionettes that portray her father and her. Since 1932, the annual Baumann marionette show has delighted Museum of Art visitors during the Christmas holidays.

The grown-up Ann was a philanthropist, community activist, and highly regarded social worker in Northern California, and until her death in 2011, she continued to make significant contributions to both the Museum of Art

and the New Mexico History Museum. We believe that Ann, who safeguarded her father’s legacy, would be pleased to know that the Museum of Art will be featuring Baumann’s prints and paintings throughout the coming year as part of their anniversary celebration. Additionally, the Press at the Palace of the Governors has a re-creation of Baumann’s print studio on permanent display.

To ensure that this artistic legacy enters a second century, and to commemorate the opening of Baumann’s first exhibit at the art museum in 1918, a Gustave Baumann Symposium is being planned for September 28 and 29, 2018. We may have to pull a few strings, but with any luck, perhaps we can offer an encore performance of the family marionettes. ■

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