

MONTGOMERY

meets MODERNISM

This installation looks back at two Americas co-existing in Palm Springs where the rich visual cultures of the traditional American West and the modernist lifestyle emerged and flourished. The group of actors, architects, artists, and designers that made their way to the desert communities during the 1940s through the 1960s established a dynamic community that is the foundation for the desert's rise to cultural prominence that remains relevant to this day – more than a half-century later.



In 1969, Leland Y. Lee photographed the Arthur Elrod house in Palm Springs, designed by architect John Lautner.



Established in 1931, Desert Riders was the first local equestrian club. They enjoyed breakfast rides in the Indian Canyons or moonlight dinner rides. Photograph Courtesy Palm Springs Historical Society. All rights reserved.

Drawn from the museum's holdings, this installation positions Hollywood icon George Montgomery's own hand-crafted furniture and his collection of traditional Western paintings alongside modernist design and abstract art. The confluence of historical and modern styles reflects a postwar spirit filled with both nostalgia and optimism.