

## Bronze art on display in Scottsdale

BETTY REID

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Get out of the heat and into Scottsdale's newest museum, where you can explore an exhibit that shows how stunning lifelike sculptures are made.

Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West is presenting "Process and Materiality: The Bronze Artistry of John Coleman With Erik Petersen." It shows through photography how sculptures take shape before they are ready for display. The sculptures are by John Coleman, considered one of the finest cowboy artists in America.

More than 30 bronze sculptures provide a stunning retrospective of Coleman's work, said Tricia Loscher, the museum's chief curator.

"People will see the detail, beauty, realistic portrayal and outstanding composition possible in bronze sculpting," Loscher said. "Many of the sculptures are so lifelike, they look as if they could speak to you."

Visitors will also learn in Coleman's words how sculpture, like music, can convey a mood without words and how history and mythology play into his work. Coleman uses his art to tell stories that explain who we are and where we came from, Loscher said.

Visitors will see how Coleman and Petersen team up to create a bronze sculpture. Coleman forms the sculpture and Peterson applies the patinas.

The patina is the colored surface of a bronze that occurs either naturally as a result of oxidation or artificially through treatment with acid.

"I applied the shine for all of Cole-



JOHN COLEMAN

"1876: Gall - Sitting Bull - Crazy Horse" by John Coleman depicts the three principal figures of The Battle of the Little Bighorn. Part of the exhibit "Process and Materiality: The Bronze Artistry of John Coleman with Erik Petersen" at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West.

man's pieces over 10 years," Petersen said.

People also will learn about Coleman's artistic style and how he applies it to the sculptures. He wants a natural feel to the patina, Petersen said.

"If you talk to John Coleman, he strongly relates to Native American mythology," he said. "I think he just really puts himself into the piece. That's why they have so much life in them."

The bronzes are on loan from the Howard and Frankie Alper Collection. The show ends Sept. 30.

### "Process and Materiality: The Bronze Artistry of John Coleman With Erik Petersen"

**When:** 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays. 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursdays for Scottsdale ArtWalk. Closed Mondays and July 4.

**Where:** Western Spirit: Scottsdale Museum's of the West, 3830 N. Marshall Way.

**Admission:** \$13, \$11 for age 65 and older and active members of the military, \$8 for ages 6-17.

**Details:** scottsdalemuseumwest.org.



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