

**Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West  
Announces New Exhibition**

*A Salute to Cowboy Artists of America and a Patron, the Late Eddie Basha:  
50 Years of Amazing Contributions to the American West*  
**November 7, 2015 – May 31, 2016**

**(SCOTTSDALE, AZ)** — Fifty years ago, four prominent Arizona artists who shared a fervent desire to authentically preserve and perpetuate the culture of Western life in fine art formed the Cowboy Artists of America (CAA).

To mark the CAA's golden anniversary and the contributions of its artists, Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West will present the exhibition "A Salute to Cowboy Artists of America and a Patron, the Late Eddie Basha: 50 Years of Amazing Contributions to the American West." It opens to the public at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, November 7 and will remain on view through Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

Sixteen members of the Cowboy Artists will be at the museum on Saturday, November 7 to participate in opening day festivities. From 9:30 to 11 a.m., they will autograph copies of B. Byron Price's commemorative book "The Sons of Charlie Russell: Celebrating 50 Years of the Cowboy Artists of America." Copies of the book will be available for purchase for \$95. Attendees may bring their copies of the book.

Cowboy Artists scheduled to participate in the autograph party include Wayne Baize, Teal Blake, John Coleman, Tim Cox, Loren Entz, Bruce Greene, Martin Grelle, Oreland Joe Sr., Mehl Lawson, Paul Moore, Bill Nebeker, Jim Norton, Clark Kelley Price, Grant Redden, Ron Riddick and Jason Scull.

Cowboy Artists John Coleman, Martin Grelle, Bruce Greene and Oreland Joe Sr. will provide painting and sculpting demonstrations and presentations between 11:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition will feature one artwork by every artist who has ever been a member of the prestigious CAA organization. In addition, it will pay tribute to the late Eddie Basha. The prominent Arizona grocer was well-known as a leader in Arizona education and the arts. He was also a passionate collector of Western art who took as much joy in getting to know the artists as in acquiring their artworks.

Basha's legacy includes the largest privately owned collection of contemporary Western American and American Indian art in the country. The exhibition will include artworks on loan from The Eddie Basha Collection, as well as loaned works from CAA artists and numerous private and public collections.

Having the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary CAA exhibition at Scottsdale's Museum of the West is especially fitting, given CAA's deep roots in Arizona and the museum's emphasis on telling the stories of the 19 Western states. "The CAA artists carry on the centuries-old tradition of storytelling in the American West," commented exhibit curator Tricia Loscher. "Their visual narratives created in diverse mediums convey the spirit of the West, and keep it alive."

(more)

CAA Past President Bill Nebeker of Prescott, Arizona commented, "The state's beautiful, diverse and unique landscape, its Native peoples' reservations, the many ranches and working cowboys, all added to the reasons it began here. Having Joe Beeler, George Phippen, Johnny Hampton and Charlie Dye (the CAA founders) living and painting in Arizona was a godsend for Arizona and the late 20<sup>th</sup> century renaissance of Western art."

According to CAA artist and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary spokesperson Martin Grelle, since the organization's inception its members have sought to pursue the highest quality in their work. "They have become recognized as the leaders in the field of Western representational art," he said. "Not only have CAA artists been widely collected as individuals, but their annual show (at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City) has been the catalyst and a model for most of the other popular art sales which have come into being during the past 50 years."

"It is a privilege and delight for our new museum to be welcoming back to the Valley an organization that for decades made an extraordinary impact in our arts community," commented Michael J. Fox, director and CEO of Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West. "The dedication, creativity, passion, and love of the American West as seen through past and current members' artistic expression have benefited many museums, galleries, artists, art historians and educators, art patrons and collectors, and students."

Admission to "A Salute to Cowboy Artists of America and a Patron: 50 Years of Amazing Contributions to the American West" is included with museum admission and is free to museum members. Admission is not required to attend the Nov. 7 book signing only.

#### **Admission Prices**

Adults: \$13

Seniors (65+) and Active Military: \$11

Students (Full-time with ID) and Children (6-17 years): \$8

Members and Children 5 and under: FREE

For special group rates, please contact Visitor Services: 480-686-9539

#### **Museum Hours**

Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat.: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Monday

Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West celebrates the art, history, and unique stories of the 19 states comprising the American West. The museum, which opened January 15, 2015, is owned by the City of Scottsdale and managed by Scottsdale Museum of the West, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The nonprofit relies upon private support to fund the museum's operation.

Western Spirit is located in downtown Scottsdale's arts district at 3830 N. Marshall Way, just south of the Main Street art galleries. For additional information, visit [scottsdalemuseumwest.org](http://scottsdalemuseumwest.org) or call 480-686-9539 during museum hours.

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