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Booth Western Art Museum Hosts Second Annual *Journey West* Gala

Largest fundraising event of the year to honor Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Ken Riley

Cartersville, Ga. – On Saturday, August 21, the Booth Western Art Museum will host the second annual *Journey West* Gala in the Booth Ballroom. As the biggest annual fundraiser for the Museum, the Gala will feature a variety of art offered in both live and silent auctions. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Booth Museum Lifetime Achievement Award to artist Kenneth Riley.

“We are excited about our second annual Gala and the opportunity to recognize Ken Riley for his outstanding work,” said Booth Museum Executive Director Seth Hopkins. “In addition to the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award and the auctions, guests of the Gala will enjoy a gourmet dinner, live music and a cocktail reception with the opportunity to view the newly acquired pieces of art in our permanent collection. Since the first Gala last fall, we have added a number of significant works to our galleries. Everyone in attendance this year is sure to see something new – including several new pieces which will be unveiled just prior to the *Journey West* Gala.”

Beginning at 5:00 pm on August 21, guests may enjoy cocktails and light hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction and the opportunity to view new pieces in the Booth collection. Guests will then adjourn to the Booth Ballroom to enjoy a gourmet meal and live art auction. Also during this time, Executive Director Seth Hopkins will present the Booth Lifetime Achievement Award to Kenneth Riley.

Born in 1919, Riley is one of the most important artists who made the transition from illustration to Western art in the 1970s and helped establish the genre as the force it is in today’s market. Following service in World War II, Riley became a much sought-after illustrator, creating work for *Saturday Evening Post*, *Readers Digest*, *Life* and many other leading publications. In the late 1960’s, he was commissioned by the U.S. Park Service to create several paintings of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. This experience, along with time spent teaching at Brigham Young University, motivated him to move west and establish a studio in Tucson.

Hopkins believes Riley is truly a legend, “He has accomplished so much throughout his artistic career and we are honored to have him accept the Booth Museum Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition to receiving this award, he received the Eiteljorg Museum Award of Excellence in 1993 and was the 1995 recipient of the Prix de West. Additionally, he was a charter member of the National Academy of Western Art in 1973 and was elected to the Cowboy Artists of America in 1982. To say he has had a great career would be an understatement; even today, he continues to create paintings in high demand at galleries and auctions.”

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Tickets to the *Journey West* Gala are \$150 per person and can be purchased by calling the Museum at 770-387-1300. Artwork available in the live and silent auctions is added to the website as it is received and can be viewed at www.boothmuseum.org.

About the Booth Western Art Museum

The Booth Western Art Museum, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is a 120,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, Georgia. Guests are invited to explore the American West through contemporary Western artwork. The Museum also houses a Presidential Gallery, Civil War art gallery, more than 200 Native American artifacts, and Sagebrush Ranch children's gallery. Visitors to Booth Museum also enjoy the intimate downtown setting with unique specialty and antique shops, boutiques and nationally featured restaurants all within walking distance of the Museum. Open since August 2003, the Booth Museum is the second largest art museum in the state of Georgia, and houses the largest permanent exhibition space for Western art in the country. To learn more about the Booth Western Art Museum, visit www.boothmuseum.org.

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