

For Immediate Release

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Booth Western Art Museum Features Renowned Sculptor Dave McGary
McGary's first major museum exhibition opens March 7 as part of three-day event

Cartersville, Ga. – Booth Western Art Museum is pleased to present renowned sculptor Dave McGary as the Featured Artist of the **Tenth Annual Southeastern Cowboy Gathering**. The exhibit, ***Native Expressions: Dave McGary's Bronze Realism***, is drawn from local and national collections as well as the artist's studio archive and will include 35 works providing a cross-section of McGary's career focused on realistic bronzes of American Indians. "McGary has become a living legend among contemporary representational artists of the American West, much like the historic figures he depicts. He is considered a master of realism meticulously crafting the details of his re-created subjects from the past and giving "life" to his figures" says Booth Director of Curatorial Services Jeff Donaldson.

McGary's career, subject matter and style are rooted in his early life, born the son of a ranching family in Cody, Wyoming. As a teen-ager, he was awarded a grant to study anatomy and the bronze-making process with master craftsmen in the Italian bronze foundry owned by infamous sculptor Harry Jackson. Showing interest in more than just the casting process, McGary also received art tips from Jackson, but also worked at developing his own style and techniques. By the 1980s, Dave had opened his own foundry and finishing facility in New Mexico and his work began receiving recognition at national art competitions. However, it was his friendship with two young Sioux art students and his adoption by the Red Elk family 25 years ago that led him to become so fascinated with this Northern Plains tribe. He then began recreating not only the historical details of their great figures of the past, but attempting to convey their personalities as well.

Although all of the bronzes featured in the exhibition were cast on a human scale or smaller, many of the works are smaller versions of celebrated monumental works. Donaldson states, "These include ***Long Soldier***, a larger version of which stands on the grounds of the New Mexico State Capitol in Santa Fe, ***The Emergence of the Chief***, cast twice-life size for Concordia University in Montreal, and ***Chief Washakie*** in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol." Despite variations in scale, consistent in all of his sculptural works is historical authenticity, anatomical accuracy, and exciting patinas. "McGary sculptures balance both precision craft and artistic spirit to a degree that few contemporary Western artists achieve" says Donaldson.

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As Featured Artist of the **Tenth Annual Southeastern Cowboy Gathering**, McGary's visit to Booth Museum will include a Gallery Walk at 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 7th followed by an Opening Reception of the exhibit at 5:00 pm where guests are invited to meet the artist. At 7:00 pm inside the Booth Theatre, McGary will give his presentation on the exhibit. On Friday, March 8, Booth Western Art Museum is hosting a Winter Golf Tournament with Dave McGary at Woodland Hills Golf Club. The four person scramble tournament guarantees each team the opportunity play one hole with the famed sculptor. ***Native Expressions: Dave McGary's Bronze Realism*** will be on exhibit at Booth Western Art Museum from March 7 through June 30, 2013.

About the Booth Western Art Museum

The Booth Western Art Museum, an Affiliate to the Smithsonian Institution, is a 120,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, Georgia, where guests are invited to *See America's Story* through contemporary Western artwork, a Presidential Gallery, Civil War art gallery, and Sagebrush Ranch, an interactive children's gallery. Open since August 2003, the Booth Museum is the only museum of its kind in the Southeast and is the second largest art museum in the state of Georgia. To learn more about the Booth Western Art Museum, visit www.boothmuseum.org.

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