

For Immediate Release

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**FROM WYOMING TO CARTERSVILLE, SEE *TODAY'S WEST!*
AT BOOTH WESTERN ART MUSEUM**

Explore the artistic developments occurring in Western art over the past 50 years

CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA – Drawn from the unparalleled collection of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, Booth Western Art Museum is proud to open a new exhibition, ***Today's West! Contemporary Art from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. Today's West!*** will be on exhibit at Booth Museum October 24, 2013 through April 13, 2014 in the Special Exhibition Gallery.

Today's West! will immerse visitors in the artistic developments that have occurred in Western art over the past 50 years. The exhibition features over 60 contemporary masterworks in a variety of media that both parallels and supplements the Booth Museum collection, showcasing additional examples by artists in the Booth collection along with work by artists never before exhibited at Booth. The exhibition layout echoes three themes represented in the Booth permanent collection galleries: Habitats and Inhabitants, Colliding Cultures, and Faces of the West.

Highlights from the exhibition:

- Representation of artists tied to the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) including Fritz Scholder, T.C. Cannon, Allan Houser, Earl Biss, David P. Bradley, and Kevin Red Star.
- Features the art of members from the Cowboy Artists of America (CAA) including Joe Beeler, T. D. Kelsey, Robert Lougheed, James Reynolds, and Robert Scriver.
- The work of important living women artists included in this exhibition are Donna Howell-Sickles, Kathy Wipfler, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Anne Coe, Linda Reynolds, and Carrie L. Ballantyne.
- Artists who use abstract forms, infuse social commentary, appropriate from earlier artists or pop culture, practice photo realism, and those who experiment with new materials can all have their work considered Western art, although some might reject the Western art label as passé or limiting. Among those pushing the envelope of the genre are Tom Palmore, Paul Pletka, Thom Ross, Bill Schenck, and Theodore Waddell.

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"The American West is a unique place; yet it also exists for many as an ideal, fantasy, myth, symbol or a time past," says Seth Hopkins, executive director of Booth Western Art Museum. "Our collective thoughts about the West, the real place with real history, or the West we construct from our minds, still provide powerful stimuli for new generations of artists. Those willing to confront the enduring traditions are empowered to pick and choose those they wish to align with or reject. While traditional Western art, commonly representational and narrative in nature, may long remain the mainstream of the genre, artists impacted by modern and post-modern trends in American art have created a significant and growing tributary. Their output provides a constructive framework for us to contemplate the American West anew: it's turbulent past, vibrant present and uncertain future."

Concurrently with *Today's West!* at Booth Museum, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia will present *Go West! Art of the American Frontier from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West* from November 3, 2013 through April 13, 2014. *Go West!* will feature major works of art and important artifacts including paintings, drawings, sculpture, photographs, "cowboy" firearms and objects from Native American cultures that showcase the exploration and settlement of the American West, complimenting the exhibition at Booth.

The *Go West!* and *Today's West!* exhibits will be accompanied by a 160-page, illustrated catalogue published by the High in association with the Yale University Press. The catalogue features essays by Stephanie Heydt of the High Museum and Mindy A. Besaw and Emma Hansen of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. Also featured will be a section on *Today's West!* with text by Booth Western Art Museum Executive Director Seth Hopkins. The catalogue will be available for purchase at Booth Western Art Museum, the High, as well as through Yale University Press.

For more details on *Today's West!*, visit www.boothmuseum.org or call 770-387-1300.

Exhibition Organization and Support

Today's West! Contemporary Art from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West is co-organized by Booth Western Art Museum and the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. The exhibition is made possible in part by the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, a generous gift from Candace Alexander McNair, the Ron and Lisa Brill Charitable Trust, and Media Partner Georgia Public Broadcasting.

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Buffalo Bill Center of the West

Committed to connecting people with the Spirit of the American West, the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, located in Cody, Wyoming, weaves the varied threads of the western experience—history and myth, art and Native culture, firearms technology and Yellowstone natural history—into the rich panorama that is the American West. The Center is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. For general information, visit www.bbhc.org.

About the Booth Western Art Museum

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 explore the American West through contemporary Western artwork. The Museum also houses a Presidential Gallery, Civil War art gallery, and Sagebrush Ranch, an interactive children's gallery. Open since August 2003, 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 Booth Western Art Museum, visit www.boothmuseum.org.

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