

For Immediate Release:

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Booth Museum Exhibition Showcases a Creative Spirit Emerging from a Life Changing Event

CARTERSVILLE, GA – Throughout life, many people experience devastating circumstances that could cripple them forever. When Harry Teague had multiple strokes and then a heart attack in the early 1990s, he could have given up. That was not the case for Teague, however, who instead awakened his inner soul and began to put his emotion on canvas through vibrant paintings. An exhibition of his work, *Saddle Up: The Western World of Harry Teague*, will be on display at Booth Western Art Museum from May 15 through September 2 in Borderlands Gallery.

“Though he never showed interest in art before, Harry Teague developed a unique talent which helped him cope with his inability to read or articulate after his strokes,” said Booth Museum Executive Director Seth Hopkins. “It is impossible for us to know exactly what occurred in his mind after the traumatizing events he experienced, but he undoubtedly awoke a part of him that was not known before. His work, which is considered folk art, became an outlet for him and speaks to people of all walks of life. I believe visitors both young and old to Booth Museum will find something that appeal to them in the exhibit.”

Like all of Teague’s paintings, *Saddle Up: The Western World of Harry Teague* features paintings of whimsical characters and a variety of color juxtapositions. With a very unique and distinguishable style, one may believe that Teague must have been artistic his entire life. On the contrary, he was a successful salesman for most of his career having also owned two restaurants, a gift shop and a smokehouse in Gatlinburg, TN, with his wife Diannia. He was in the midst of developing a subdivision outside of Gatlinburg when a series of strokes and a heart attack changed his life forever.

It was through the encouragement of Diannia that Teague began to paint as an outlet to express himself. In 10 years, he painted more than 1,300 paintings. His work has been recognized throughout the Southeast and as far away as New York, Colorado and Oklahoma. Additionally, Teague’s art received the Distinguished Merit of Best of Show six times from Georgia Artists Disabilities, Inc.

The public is invited to Art for Lunch on Wednesday, June 6, when Teague’s widow Diannia describes Harry’s life and the medical journey that led him to paint as part of his therapy. Dr. Diana Gregory, a Kennesaw State University associate professor and art therapist, will discuss brain trauma and how art therapy can help the individual express themselves visually. Art for Lunch begins at 12:15 pm in the Booth Ballroom and is free for Booth members and included with regular admission for not-yet members.

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For more information on *Saddle Up: The Western World of Harry Teague*, please call 770-387-1300 or visit www.boothmuseum.org.

About Booth Western Art Museum:

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, 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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