***Treasures from the Vault – 15 Years of Collecting at Booth Museum***

February 21 – July 28, 2019

In the 15 years since the Booth Western Art Museum opened to the public many important and wonderful works of art have been added to the collection through donations, bequests and purchases. These include major works by W. R. Leigh, Howard Terpning, Harry Jackson, Gerald Curtis Delano, John Coleman, Martin Grelle, Terri Kelly Moyers, Dave McGary, Glenna Goodacre, just to name a few. In addition to these showstoppers by artists whose names are well known in Western art circles, there are many objects, paintings and sculpture by artists not quite as well-known along with items that executive director Seth Hopkins describes as “just plain cool.” Hopkins knows the collection well, having been at the Booth Museum, in Cartersville, Georgia since before ground was even broken for the 120,000 square foot facility.

Part of a yearlong celebration of the Museum’s 15 years of service to the public, the exhibition ***Treasures from the Vault – 15 Years of Collecting at Booth Museum*** will highlight six themes, Georgia Artists, Different, Sculpture, Presidents, New and Sketches. One of the things that has been most surprising to the Booth Museum staff over the years is the number of artists living in Georgia or having strong Georgia ties who are creating Western art. Included in the exhibition will be works by portrait artist Clyde Burnett, legendary illustrator/cartoonist Jack Davis, David DeVary, Roseta Santiago, Dee Venzer and the historic artist J. R. Willis.

Under the Different category the Museum will be showing a wide variety of objects and art, ranging from hand-blown glass horses to leather carved and colored to look a painting, as well as an early Thomas Kincade, done before he became “The Painter of Light,” and a portrait done entirely with crayon by the internet sensation Don Marco. Native American art and artifacts, branding irons, and wood carvings will also be on display. Portions of the exhibition are meant to resemble the Muserum’s actual vault where all the art not on display is stored, particularly the area dedicated to sculpture. Large racks will be presented holding sculpture fairly tightly packed so that a large number of pieces can be seen and nearby labels will help identify them.

In addition to Western art, the Booth Museum houses a gallery showcasing a one page signed letter by every president, and an image of each one. During this exhibition additional material from the Presidential collection will be on view including letters from several Vice Presidents and First Ladies, models of Air Force One and the Presidential limo, jackets and hats with the Air Force One logo, and an official 2000 Palm Beach County voting machine famous for creating “hanging chads.” In the sketches area visitors will encounter preliminary drawings and color studies for major paintings in the permanent collection, as well as unfinished works of art created as demonstration pieces by artists conducting workshops.

Rounding out the exhibition will be an area highlighting recent acquisitions. Donated works by John Buxton, James Boren, Tim Nicola and Clive Tyler will be shown alongside sponsored acquisitions created by Teal Blake, Rox Corbett and Rosetta Santiago. Many of these works will be rotated into the permanent collection galleries following this exhibition and other works will be sent to the vault, replenishing the treasure.