Phoenix Art Museum  
News Release

The New West Comes Alive in The West Select Exhibition and Sale at Phoenix Art Museum

The West Select: A New Western Classic Exhibition and Sale on view November 10-December 31, 2012

PHOENIX (September 1, 2012) – Phoenix Art Museum explores the diversity and unique splendor of the American West in The West Select: A New Western Classic, an exhibition and set-price fundraising sale featuring contemporary Western art opening November 11 through December 31, 2012. Presented by the Men’s Arts Council, a Museum support organization, The West Select introduces more than 100 unique pieces including paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs by today’s leading Western artists. The works in this exhibition are as vast and varied as the history of the region’s diverse cultures and peoples, the hardscrabble canyons and geological formations, and the wildlife that has the pluck and fortitude to call the deserts of the West home.

“Phoenix Art Museum has been at the forefront of Western American art for more than 30 years,” said James K. Ballinger, the Museum’s Sybil Harrington Director. “The West Select represents the breadth of this new environment.” The exhibition includes iconic landscapes, still-lifes, wildlife, historical genre scenes of cowboys, settlers and American Indians, and depictions of the modern New West. Each piece is created by living artists who seek to re-envision depictions of the West through a variety of styles ranging from highly-detailed naturalism to loose abstract interpretations of Western wildlife, landscapes, and figures.

“The Men’s Arts Council is excited to host, in conjunction with the Phoenix Art Museum, the second annual West Select,” said Garrett McKnight, President of the Men’s Arts Council. “Last year’s inaugural sale and exhibition was a tremendous success. We believe that this show will continue to showcase the diversity of art being produced in the West and provide patrons with a variety of pieces to add to their collections.”

The West Select will feature 35 of the best Western artists from across the country, including newcomers George Carlson, Scott Christensen, Tony Foster, and T. Allen Lawson, and returning artists William Acheff, Bill Anton, Scott Baxter, Arturo Chávez, Len Chmiel, Jay Dusard, Josh Elliott, Luke Frazier, George Hallmark, Ann Hanson, Steve Kestrel, Richard Loffler, Merrill Mahaffey, Walter Matia, William Matthews, Louise McElwain, Ed Mell, Dean Mitchell, John Moyers, Terri Moyers, Dan Ostermiller, Howard Post, Cynthia Ridgen, Bill Schenck, William Shepherd, Bob "Shoofly" Shufelt, Gary Ernest Smith, Don Stinson, Kent Ullberg, Curt Walters and Benjamin Wu. Offering a rich survey of works that exemplify the American West, this select group of highly regarded artists will bring their talents together to create a new Western classic sale and exhibition.

On Friday, November 9, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, The West Select opens with a special viewing for ticketed sale patrons only prior to the sale that evening. The sale will be held at 5:30 pm. The exhibition opens to Museum Members on Saturday, November 10, and the general public may view the exhibition on Sunday, November 11. The artwork will remain on exhibit through Monday, December 31, 2012.

The West Select ticket holders are invited to attend the host of activities at the Museum including an artist presentation and an awards luncheon.

The West Select exhibition and sale, presented through a partnership with Men’s Arts Council and Phoenix Art Museum, offers a glimpse into the West as it is today, in the 21st century, where the histories and stories of the past exist alongside a living, breathing world producing exciting new art in a variety of styles, that is alive with color, life, and possibility.
About Phoenix Art Museum
Phoenix Art Museum has provided access to visual arts and educational programs in Arizona for more than 50 years and is the largest art museum in the Southwestern United States. Critically acclaimed national and international exhibitions are shown alongside the Museum’s permanent collection of more than 17,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. The Museum also presents festivals, a comprehensive film program, live performances and educational programs designed to enlighten, entertain and stimulate visitors of all ages. Visitors also enjoy vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum’s landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona. To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit PhxArt.org, or call the 24-hour recorded information line at (602) 257-1222.

The Men’s Arts Council
The Men’s Arts Council of Phoenix Art Museum is a nonprofit organization that was founded in January 1967 to support the programs and activities of the Museum. With the talents and efforts of more than 185 members, MAC organizes two distinctively different annual events: an annual Western Art sale and exhibition and the Bell Lexus Copperstate 1000 Vintage Car Rally. The success of these fundraising events enables MAC to make annual contributions to the Museum’s operating budget, to financially support exhibitions, and to fund three separate endowments for art acquisition and education: Western American Art Endowment Fund, Men’s Arts Council Sculpture Endowment, and the James K. Ballinger Director’s Scholarship Endowment. Over the past 45 years, MAC’s cumulative financial contributions to Phoenix Art Museum amounts to more than $9 million.

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