

Phoenix Art Museum

News Release

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The West Select at Phoenix Art Museum

Sale – Friday, November 8

Exhibition – Sunday, November 10 to Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Phoenix, (July 29, 2013) - Phoenix Art Museum explores the diversity and magnificence of the American West in *The West Select*, an exhibition and set-price fundraising sale featuring contemporary Western art. Organized by Phoenix Art Museum and presented by the Men's Arts Council, a Museum support organization, *The West Select* opens on Friday, November 8 with a sale of its diverse Western artwork. *The West Select* continues with a public opening on Sunday, November 10 and closes Tuesday, December 31, 2013. Introducing more than 100 works of art, *The West Select* includes paintings, drawings, sculptures, and photographs by today's leading artists. The works reveal iconic landscapes, still-life and wildlife, historical genre scenes of cowboys, settlers and American Indians, and depictions of the modern, new West.

"The Men's Arts Council is excited to present the third annual *West Select*," commented Jim Rees, President of the Men's Arts Council. "Our format of a Friday night, in-gallery sale of a curated exhibition is one of the most dynamic events in the Arizona art community. *The West Select* continues to grow the number and depth of the artists and enhance the quality and diversity of the artworks themselves."

"Phoenix Art Museum has been nationally recognized for its commitment to art of the American West for more than 50 years," said James K. Ballinger, Sybil Harrington Director of Phoenix Art Museum. "*The West Select* represents the breadth of Western American art today in exciting, dynamic ways."

The West Select will feature 34 of the best artists from across the country. Carefully selected and invited to participate, these artists offer a rich, diverse look at the American West. New artists for 2013 include Gary T. Erbe, Logan Maxwell Hagege, D. LaRue Mahlke, Donna Howell-Sickles, Tom Palmore, Robert Peters and Matt Smith and returning artists Bill Anton, Scott Baxter, Arturo Chávez, Len Chmiel, Jay Dusard, Josh Elliott, George Hallmark, Ann Hanson, Steve Kestrel, T. Allen Lawson, Richard Loffler, Merrill Mahaffey, Walter Matia, William Matthews, Ed Mell, Dean Mitchell, Dan Ostermiller, Howard Post, Cynthia Ridgen, Bill Schenck, Bill Shepherd, Bob "Shoofly" Shufelt, Gary Ernest Smith, Don Stinson, Kent Ullberg, Curt Walters, and Benjamin Wu.

The West Select Sale

On Friday, November 8 from 10am to 3pm, *The West Select* opens with a special viewing for sale ticket holders only. Tickets for the sale are \$125 per person and include an invitation to the kick-off reception on Thursday evening, the sale preview, an artist presentation and entry to the sale. Tickets for the awards lunch, held Friday afternoon, are an additional \$35. Sale attendees have multiple opportunities to meet with the participating artists.

The West Select sale begins at 5:30pm and unlike a typical art auction, attendees submit intent-to-purchase slips. The first name drawn has the option to buy the work of art. This "luck of the draw" method not only proves exciting but offers an equal opportunity for both the first-time buyer and the seasoned collector.

A portion of the sale proceeds benefits Phoenix Art Museum and its Western Art Endowment Fund. *The West Select* is proud to be the kick-off event for the Scottsdale Fall for the Arts Weekend. The exhibition is sponsored by Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold, with additional support provided by Art Solutions & Installations, LLC.

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 Phoenix Art Museum. With the talents and efforts of its over 200 members, the Men's Arts Council organizes four distinctively different annual events: the Bell Lexus Copperstate 1000 vintage car road rally, the Southwest Double Gun sporting clays shooting tournament, the Ripe Culinary Awards and *The West Select*.

The success of these fundraising events enables MAC to make annual contributions to the Museum's operating budget, to financially sponsor 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. As of July 2013, MAC's cumulative financial contribution to Phoenix Art Museum over the last 46 years is over \$9.250 million.

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 collection of more than 17,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. 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..

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