

Andy Warhol and Billy Schenck Exhibits Open at Briscoe Western Art Museum

Briscoe focuses on Western pop art in two exhibitions May 25-Sept. 3

BY KATHLEEN PETTY



ANNIE OAKLEY BY ANDY WARHOL; SCREENPRINT, 1986 COURTESY OF JACK AND VALERIE GUENTHER, © 2017 THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, INC. LICENSED BY ARTISTS RIGHTS SOCIETY (ARS), NEW YORK.

The Briscoe Western Art Museum offers a departure from its more traditional art and artifacts in two companion exhibits opening May 25.

The first, *Andy Warhol: Cowboys and Indians*, showcases Warhol's last major project before his death in 1987. Known for his use of household images (like Campbell's soup cans) and pop culture figures (including Elvis Presley), Warhol is often called the father of American Pop Art. His iconic style carries over into this Western series through pieces that pay tribute to romanticized versions of the American West.

The name of the collection, *Cowboys and Indians*, comes from the role-playing games of children, and like much of Warhol's work, is meant to challenge the stereotypes it reinforces. It includes screen prints of John Wayne, Annie Oakley, Geronimo and the Buffalo Nickel, among others. While the final collection includes 10 screen prints, Warhol initially worked with 14 images. The additional four screen prints are on display at the Briscoe, says Michael Duchemin, president and CEO of the museum.

The second exhibit, *Billy Schenck: Myth of the West*, is a retrospective that features 26 pieces, including several from each decade of Schenck's work as an artist. Schenck will be at the Briscoe Western Art Museum for a book signing on May 26 and has participated in the museum's Night of the Artists sale in recent years.



The first formal art show Schenck saw as an 18-year-old was Warhol's Campbell Soup collection. He ended up working for Warhol the following year and says Warhol's pop art style was an early influence on his work.

Arranged by decade, Schenck's work includes pieces inspired by pop culture and cinematography as well as paintings inspired by his own photographs, taken while on his ranch and in the West, where he focused on the Navajo people, among others, and, more recently, on Western landscape.

Known for his simple style, Schenck's pieces, including "The Last Sunset" and "Anything Can Happen in the Afternoon," (pictured here) often include bold colors and sharp details.

Duchemin says the exhibitions are the fourth in a series of visiting exhibits the museum began last year. "They're two phenomenal exhibitions that pay tribute to America's romanticized vision of the West," he said.

Andy Warhol: Cowboys and Indians | Billy Schenck: Myth of the West

May 25-Sept. 3

Briscoe Western Art Museum

210 W. Market St., briscoemuseum.org

Meet Schenck during a book signing on May 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.