



NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Michael Duchemin, New Briscoe Museum President, to Receive *2017 Spur Award* by the Western Writers of America

San Antonio, Texas - Michael Duchemin, Ph.D., new President & CEO of the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas, has been awarded the coveted **2017 Spur Award** in **Best Western Contemporary Nonfiction** by Western Writers of America (WWA), for his most recent book, *New Deal Cowboy: Gene Autry and Public Diplomacy*.

“In this fascinating, definitive account of America’s favorite singing cowboy, Michael Duchemin reveals Gene Autry as one of the most important culture figures in the Great Depression years,” according to Peter Stanfield, author of *Horse Opera: The Strange History of the Singing Cowboy*.

Prior to coming to the Briscoe, Duchemin was the Executive Director of the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana, and served as Managing Curator with the Autry National Center in Los Angeles. With broad training in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, he is an author and historian specializing in the cultural and intellectual history of the United States with an emphasis on the American West. Duchemin has also served as a contributing writer to noteworthy publications such as *Western Historical Quarterly*, *The Journal of the California Historical Society*, and *Westways Magazine*.

Western Writers of America, Inc. was founded in 1953 to promote the literature of the American West and bestow Spur Awards for distinguished writing in the Western field. The founders were largely authors who wrote traditional Western fiction, but the organization swiftly expanded to include historians and other nonfiction authors, young adult and romance writers, and writers interested in regional history.

Since 1953, the Spur Awards have been considered one of the most prestigious awards in American literature. Dr. Duchemin joins an elite circle of past recipients to include Michael Blake for *Dances with Wolves*, Glendon Swartout for *The Shootist*, and Larry McMurtry for *Lonesome Dove*.

The 2017 Spur Awards will be presented during the WWA annual convention on June 24 in Kansas City, MO.

About The Briscoe Western Art Museum | 210 W. Market Street, San Antonio, TX 78205

The Briscoe Western Art Museum, named in honor of the late Texas Governor, Dolph Briscoe, Jr. and his wife, Janey Slaughter Briscoe, preserves and presents the art, history, and culture of the American West through engaging exhibitions, educational programs, and public events reflective of the region’s rich traditions and shared heritage. Located along the San Antonio River Walk, its campus is inclusive of the restored historic 1930s former San Antonio Public Library building which now serves as the Museum space with nine galleries on three levels; the new, three-story Jack Guenther Pavilion used for event rentals and programs; and the outdoor McNutt Sculpture Garden. For more information about The Briscoe Western Art Museum, visit our website at BriscoeMuseum.org, follow us on Twitter @BriscoeMuseum or ‘Like’ us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TheBriscoe](https://www.facebook.com/TheBriscoe)

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