BRINGING WESTERN ART TO LIFE WITH DEMONSTRATIONS, ARTISTS’ TALKS, MOVIES AND MORE TO FILL THE SUMMER WITH COWBOY ART AND FUN

The Sons of Charlie Russell: Cowboy Artists of America
Premiers at the Briscoe May 27 – Sept. 5

San Antonio, TX – (May 2022) An art form as uniquely American as jazz music, Western art has long defined the American West for audiences worldwide. Showcasing how dedicated cowboy artists are the foundation and future of Western art, The Sons of Charlie Russell: Cowboy Artists of America premiers at the Briscoe Western Art Museum May 27 – Sept. 5. Spotlighting the founding fathers of Western art alongside the Cowboy Artists of America (CAA) artists who have safeguarded the traditional style of the genre, The Sons of Charlie Russell defines a core set of criteria for what traditional Western art is.

Curated by Emily Wilson, the Curator of Art for the Briscoe, The Sons of Charlie Russell features works from 17 lenders, including the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, the Booth Western Art Museum, the Eddie Basha Collection, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and the Sid Richardson Museum, as well as private lenders from Texas, Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Nine of the featured works are sourced from the Briscoe’s permanent collection.

The Sons of Charlie Russell Opening Celebration
To mark the exhibition’s opening, the Briscoe is hosting a series of events May 26–28, followed by monthly gallery talks and art demonstrations featuring current CAA members, including the museum’s annual National Day of the Cowboy celebration on July 23. Opening weekend events include:

- The Sons of Charlie Russell: Cowboy Artists of America Exhibition Preview Party
  Thursday, May 26, 6 – 8 p.m.

  Help the Briscoe kick off the summer showcasing the foundation and future of Western art alongside members of the Cowboy Artists of America and Michael Duchemin, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Briscoe. The event includes complimentary beer, wine, specialty cocktails and light bites. Free for Briscoe members and $45 for non-members. In addition to enjoying the exhibition, guests may tour the museum 5:30 – 7 p.m. Tickets are available online.

- “The Sons of Charlie Russell: Celebrating Fifty Years of the Cowboy Artists of America” Book Signing with Byron Price
  Thursday, May 26, 5:15 — 5:45 p.m.
  Friday, May 27, 10 – 10:45 a.m.
Byron Price will be signing copies of his book, “The Sons of Charlie Russell”, the inspiration behind the Briscoe’s exhibition. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Cowboy Artists of America, Price details the organization’s founding to perpetuate the history, romance, and significance of the American West. The stories of these cowboy artists come alive with essays, photographs and beautiful images of their work Available for purchase in the Museum Store and online.

- **An Enduring Desire: Tradition and the Cowboy Artists of America Lunch and Curator’s Tour**
  Friday, May 27, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join Emily Wilson, the Briscoe’s Curator of Art and the curator of *The Sons of Charlie Russell* for an in-depth look at the exhibition, detailing how traditional Western art represents an enduring desire for continuity, stability, and a fixed identity of what it means to be an American. Wilson will focus on the ties between CAA artists and historical artists of the American West, examining the artistic choices made by members navigating between cohesion and individuality and tradition and innovation in pursuing the work of creating traditional Western art. The lunch begins at 11 a.m., followed by the tour at 1 p.m. Tickets are $50 for Briscoe members, $60 for non-members and are available online.

- **Boots, Chaps, and Cowboy Crafts: Family Art Activities**
  Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Explore America’s cowboy culture and heritage with hands-on activities available for visitors to celebrate the opening of *The Sons of Charlie Russell*. Crafts include Make Your Own Spurs, Make Your Own Paper Bag Cowhand and Hands-on-chaps, cowboy hat, and lasso. Included in general museum admission.

- **Cowboy Creations: Demonstration and Talk with C. Michael Dudash**
  Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

  10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Live Painting Demonstration: Narrative Western Painting

Dudash will demonstrate and discuss the various approaches and painting techniques he uses to create his narrative western paintings. He will teach how to create a successful painting through dynamic design by prioritizing the position of the subjects and elements, effectively posing figures and animals, how to use color and value, making proper landscape choices, and adding “atmosphere and dust” to give a work of art an emotional lift.

  2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Talk by C. Michael Dudash, “Illustrations’ Influence on Western Art”
A member of Cowboy Artists of America since 2016, C. Michael Dudash trained in the fine arts before working in classic illustration and gaining a prestigious and national reputation. In 2002, he left his illustration work behind and became a full-time painter in the fine art world. Hundreds of collectors and corporations have his paintings in their permanent collections, as well as The Booth Museum, the James Western Art Museum and the Briscoe. Included in museum general admission.

Dudash will share illustration examples from the late 1800s to the year 2000 that have influenced Western Art’s biggest names and trends throughout the last 150 years. Understanding this subject will enhance one’s appreciation and enjoyment of the contemporary Western art being created today.

**Cowboy Creations: Learn from Cowboy Artists**
Bringing the art of *The Sons of Charlie Russell* to life, members of the Cowboy Artists of America are appearing in a series of demonstrations and talks throughout the exhibition. Following opening weekend, guests can enjoy meeting and watching these talented cowboy artists share the processes behind their work. All sessions are included in general museum admission.

- Mikel Donahue  
  Saturday, June 25

- Chad Poppleton  
  Saturday, Aug. 6

- Jason Scull (part of the Briscoe’s National Day of the Cowboy Celebration)  
  Saturday, July 23, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Bruce Greene (part of The Lessons of Our Fathers Panel)  
  Saturday, Aug. 27, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

- Teal Blake  
  Saturday, Sept. 3, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- Jason Scull  
  Saturday, Sept. 3, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**STEAMing into the West with The Sons of Charlie Russell**
Families and visitors of all ages are invited to learn about the American West through the works featured in *The Sons of Charlie Russell* during the museum’s “Full STEAM Ahead” series on the third Saturday of each month. From transportation and weather to animals, astronomy and engineering, each program explores an aspect of life in the West to engage and inspire learning. Full STEAM Ahead is included with museum general admission. Children 12 and under receive free admission to the Briscoe.
• Full STEAM Ahead: Red Moon  
Saturday, June 18, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  

Guests will learn about the lunar eclipse, and the significance the moon had on the people of the American West. Guests will also learn and practice perspective and contrast in creating art, exploring “Red Moon,” by CAA member Phil Epp and featured in *The Sons of Charlie Russell*.

• Full STEAM Ahead: All A-Gnome  
Saturday, July 16, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Families will make their own gnomes inspired by the beloved children’s book “Charlie Russell and the Gnomes of Bullhead Lodge” by renowned author and Briscoe curator Emily Wilson. Wilson curated *The Sons of Charlie Russell* exhibition.

• Full STEAM Ahead: Whimsical Windmills  
Saturday, August 20, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

While conservation and renewable energy efforts may seem like new solutions to the energy crisis, cowboys and settlers alike used renewable energy long before access to gas and electricity was ever invented. Guests will learn how windmills were some of our first sources of alternative energy.

**What is a Western? Summer Film Series**  
The Briscoe’s popular *Summer Film Series* returns with a question: What is a Western? What are the elements of a Western and how has the Western been re-interpreted through the years? The first film in the series will explore the traditional components of Western cinema. A short presentation discussing the foundations of the Western will begin at 1 p.m., followed immediately by the screening. Each film is included in general admission, with free brews courtesy of Ranger Creek Brewery. Popcorn, drinks and snacks will be available for purchase.

• **“The Searchers”**  
  Sunday, June 19, 1 p.m.

In the 1956 movie considered by many to be the greatest Western ever made, John Wayne stars as a post-Civil War veteran on a journey to find his niece after Comanche Native Americans kidnapped her. Its influence is reflected in the works of Martin Scorsese, George Lucas, Steven Spielberg and other critical filmmakers.

• **“Dances With Wolves”**  
  Sunday, July 10, 1 p.m.
In his directorial debut and breakout role, Kevin Costner stars as a post-Civil War veteran who comes into contact with the Lakota while on assignment in South Dakota. The 1990 film was nominated for 12 Academy Awards, winning seven, including Best Picture and Best Director, and received Golden Globes for Best Motion Picture – Drama, Best Director, and Best Screenplay.

- **“Wind River”**
  Sunday, Aug. 21, 1 p.m.

  In this tense neo-western thriller, Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen star as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife hunter and an FBI agent investigating a murder on the Wind River Indian Reservation. The 2017 film was “Yellowstone” creator Taylor Sheridan’s directorial debut.

**Books and Brews: Briscoe Book Club**

- **Briscoe Book Club: “No Country for Old Men” by Cormac McCarthy**
  Thursday, July 14, 6 p.m.
  Weathered Souls Brewery, 606 Embassy Oaks #500, San Antonio, 78216

Join the Briscoe Book Club for a lively chat in a laid-back social gathering as we explore great works of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction inspired by the vast and varied experiences of the American West. We will discuss a new book each quarter. Books are available for purchase at the Museum Store, or you may reserve a copy for check out through the San Antonio Public Library system before each meeting. There is no charge to participate in the book club. Reserve your spot by registering online.

**The Lessons of Our Fathers: Panel and Artist Presentation**

With The Sons of Charlie Russell: Cowboy Artists of America, the Briscoe Western Art Museum casts a spotlight on the history and significance of the Cowboy Artists of America and its efforts to maintain and evolve the style and subject matter of traditional Western art. The museum is hosting a panel of Western art scholars to discuss the importance of preserving tradition and the necessity for tradition to evolve and undergo revision to remain relevant in a changing world. The panel will also examine the CAA’s level of success at executing its mission: to authentically preserve and perpetuate the culture of Western life through fine art. Moderated by Emily Wilson, Curator of Art for the Briscoe Western Art Museum and the curator of The Sons of Charlie Russell. The panel is Saturday, August 27, 2 – 4 p.m.

Before the panel discussion at 10 – 10:30 a.m., CAA artist Bruce Greene, the 2022 President of the CAA, will do a presentation detailing his journaling techniques and how he uses his journal to help with the accuracy of his art. Both the presentation and the panel are included in general admission.
210 West: Gallery Talks
Join the Briscoe for in-gallery chats featuring selected works from *The Sons of Charlie Russell*. Using the exhibition gallery guide, Curator of Art Emily Wilson will provide an overview of the tools and strategies used to evaluate narrative art. Guests will leave with a deeper appreciation of the artistic strategy and choices made by the artists. Gallery talks are included in general admission and start at 1 p.m.

- June 24, July 8, Aug. 12

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Head West for an Art-FULL Summer
From its McNutt Sculpture Garden to the museum’s beautifully restored historic home inside the former San Antonio Public Library building, the Briscoe collection spans 14 galleries, with special exhibitions, events and a fantastic Museum Store, providing art, culture, history and entertainment.

Admission is always free for children 12 and under and for active duty military members. The museum is proud to participate in Museums For All, Blue Star Museums and Bank of America Museums on Us. The Briscoe is located on the south end of the River Walk, near the Arneson River Theatre and La Villita, with convenient parking at the Riverbend Garage directly adjacent to the museum or one of many downtown surface lots. Museum hours, parking and admission details are available online.

About the Briscoe Western Art Museum: Preserving and presenting 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, the Briscoe Western Art Museum is located on the San Antonio River Walk at 210 W. Market Street in the beautifully restored 1930s former San Antonio Public Library building. Named in honor of the late Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe Jr. and his wife, Janey Slaughter Briscoe, the museum includes the three-story Jack Guenther Pavilion, used for event rentals and programs, and the outdoor McNutt Sculpture Garden. Follow the Briscoe on social media, @BriscoeMuseum.