

DESERT CABALLEROS
WESTERN MUSEUM
MEDIA RELEASE

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**Cowgirl Up! Mega Show
Creates Wickenburg Stampede
Final Week Coming Up May 1 – May 7**

Wickenburg, AZ – The first mega-museum show to ever be held for western women artists has been drawing mega crowds to Wickenburg’s Desert Caballeros Western Museum. Over 3000 visitors saw *Cowgirl Up! Art from the Other Half of the West* during the first six days of the show’s run, making it one of the museum’s most popular in history. The show will end on Sunday, May 7.

It is also proving to be one of the museum’s most profitable, for unlike other exhibitions, this show is also a sale. “You cannot only enjoy the art in the Museum,” says Executive Director Royce Kardinal, “you can actually take it home.”

Of the 150 paintings and sculptures placed on exhibit, 68 sold within the first two days of the sale. “That hasn’t diminished the range of the art still available,” says Kardinal who explained that most of the artists also sent additional pieces for the sale. “As one piece of art sells, we rotate another in,” she says.

This was the inaugural year for the show and sale which attracted women artists from all over the West. Six awards were presented on opening night including “Best of Show” which went to Montana animal sculptor Sherry Salari Sander for her *Through the Pass*. In addition to a cash prize of \$2000, Sander will receive a Cowgirl Up! boot especially designed for the show.

“First Place” for two-dimensional work went to Linda Lillegraven for her painting *Arizona Highway*. Deborah Copenhaver-Fellows received “First Place” for three-dimensional work for her sculpture *Youth Was in the Saddle*. Both of the first place award winners received cash prizes of \$1000.

Winner of the Museum Purchase Award was artist Brenda Murphy. Her graphite pencil drawing, *Cowgirl Woolies*, will become a part of the Desert Caballeros Western Museum’s permanent collection.

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The prestigious Governor's Choice Award, chosen by the Office of the Governor of the State of Arizona, went to Elaine Manning Crook for her painting *Apache Daughter*. Crook received a \$1000 cash award from the Museum.

Winning the patron's vote was Mary Cooper Hamill who received the People's Choice Award, along with a cash prize of \$1000 for her sculpture *Fatal Dismount*.

All of the award-winning paintings and sculptures will be on exhibition throughout the Cowgirl Up! show and sale which runs through May 7. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Desert Caballeros Western Museum is located at 21 North Frontier Street in Wickenburg.

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Captions:

Mary Cooper Hamill

Sculptor Mary Cooper Hamill won the popular vote and the People's Choice Award on opening night of Cowgirl Up!

Jane Coleman

It was fast and furious art for Wickenburg's Jane Coleman, one of more than a dozen Cowgirl Up! artists who took part in a Sunday morning "Quick Draw" after the big opening night. Her assistant was Helena Chapin, president of Las Senoras, the Museum's auxiliary.

Governor's Representative and Mayor Badowski

The Governor sent Anna Maria Chavez to select the prestigious Governor's Choice Award. She is joined here by Mayor Ron Badowski.

Wagon Crew

The wagon's couldn't have rolled on Cowgirl Up! without the help of volunteers like Betsy and Myron Diebel and Betty and Tom Watt.

Dick and Ginny DeVore

The couple who caught Cowgirl Up! fire early on and made it all happen were Dick and Ginny DeVore.

Flying E Greeters

A welcoming party from the Flying E Ranch included Aaron Adamson, Allen Culp and "Trail Boss" Andrea Taylor who greeted Cowgirl Up! guests on the big night.

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Joe Beeler and Bill Owen

Cowboys were welcome at the all-woman show especially Cowboy Artists of America founder Joe Beeler and past president Bill Owen.

Buckshot Babes and Cheryl Rogers Barnett

Daughter of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Cheryl Rogers Barnett, was in town for “Lunch with a Legend,” part of the Cowgirl Up! celebration. Sponsors of the event included sisters Gail Walma and Carrie Ward of Buckshot Babes.

Horse Drawn Carriage with Cheryl Rogers Barnett

It was “happy trails” for Cheryl Rogers Barnett and her husband Larry who were chauffeured to the Cowgirl Up! lunch courtesy of Darrell Singleton.

About the Desert Caballeros Western Museum

The Desert Caballeros Western Museum is *Arizona's Most Western Museum* serving more than 40,000 visitors a year by preserving and exhibiting the art and history of the Southwest and desert frontier. The Museum is known for its innovative programming and has an extraordinary collection including Western art and Native American arts, along with the Hays' *Spirit of the Cowboy Collection*, one of the most complete collections of Western artifacts on display in the country. The Museum's entire lower level is devoted to a re-creation of life in Late Territorial Wickenburg and to an exciting permanent exhibit called *Out on the Ranch* which has been especially created with children in mind. The Museum is located at 21 N. Frontier Street in Wickenburg. For information, call 928-684-2272, or visit www.westernmuseum.org