

DESERT CABALLEROS WESTERN MUSEUM

EXPERIENCE THE OLD WEST, THE NEW WEST & THE NEXT WEST

MEDIA RELEASE

2017 judges:

Karen McWhorter

Scarlett Curator of Western American Art
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Editor of American Art Collector, Western Art Collector,
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Cowgirl Up! at the Desert Caballeros Western Museum

-- *National Art Exhibition & Sale Runs Through May 7th in historic Wickenburg, Ariz.* --

Wickenburg, AZ – The 12th annual Cowgirl Up! Art from the Other Half of the West launched a successful opening weekend March 24 - 26, 2017, drawing collectors from across the country. The 51 artists and 1,000 + patrons who attended mingled and purchased artwork at the Friday evening Miniatures Sale and Cowgirl Roundup Street Dance, the Saturday evening Bash & Bid Gala and Live Auction, and the Sunday Morning Chuckwagon Breakfast and Artist Quick Draw. Over \$300,000 in art sales will benefit the participating artists and the Desert Caballeros Western Museum.

What made this year's **Cowgirl Up!** truly outstanding was the attendance by 51 of the 58 women showing in this prestigious exhibition. Many openly cited the opportunity to gather in beautiful Wickenburg with fellow women Western artists as well as to interact with respected patrons as vital opportunities they could not miss out on. Art sales continue throughout the run of the show until May 7. New this year, the **Cowgirl Up!** artwork is available for purchase online at westernmuseum.org.

Ten different awards were presented by Executive Director, Sandra Harris, at the Saturday night Bash & Bid Gala (March 25) with the prestigious “Best of Show” award going to Lakewood, CO artist Jill Soukup for *Tough & Tender*, her oil on canvas painting.

The 2017 “Director’s Choice New Artist” award for body of work was presented to Tampa, FL artist Heide Presse. The honor guarantees Heide inclusion in *Cowgirl Up! 2018*.

Deborah Copenhaver Fellows of Sonoita, AZ, received the “Museum Purchase” award. Her bronze sculpture, titled *When Horses Made Heroes*, will become a part of the Desert Caballeros Western Museum’s permanent art collection. Fellows also received Western Art Collector Magazine’s “Award of Excellence” for her body of work. She was awarded a complimentary ad in Western Art Collector Magazine.

The Award for “First Place Two-Dimensional on Canvas” went to Nancy Boren of The Colony, TX, for *Fast Track to Mustang Ridge*. Boren received a complimentary ad in Art of the West Magazine, who sponsored the award.

For the third year in a row, the “First Place two-dimensional on Paper” award went to Rox Corbett of Powell, WY, this year for her charcoal on rag drawing *Buick and the Beast*.

Sculptor Martha Pettigrew of Kearney, NE, received “First Place Three-Dimensional” for her stainless steel piece, *Two Ravens*.

Shell, WY artist Ann Hanson was selected by her *Cowgirl Up!* peers for the highly respected “Artists’ Choice” award for body of work. Hanson received a complimentary ad placement from award sponsor Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine.

First-year Cowgirl Up! artist Jessica Gilbert, of Eagle, CO, received the “People’s Choice” award for body of work. Gilbert received a \$1,000 gift certificate from Art Handlers Ltd, who sponsored the award.

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey will select the prestigious “Governor’s Choice Award”, at a future date. This award will be presented to one of the seventeen Arizona-based *Cowgirl Up!* artists.

All of the award-winning paintings, drawings and sculptures will remain on exhibit throughout the run of the show, which ends on May 7, 2017. Sales continue throughout the exhibition. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon-Sat and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

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About the Museum

The Desert Caballeros Western Museum is an accredited museum by the American Alliance of Museums. The Museum is known as *Arizona's Most Western Museum*, and serves nearly 75,000 visitors a year. The Museum preserves and exhibits the art and history of the Southwest and the desert frontier, and is well-known for its innovative exhibitions and programming. Its world-renowned collection of American Western fine art, American Indian art and artifacts, and captivating interactive exhibits, together, create an unforgettable experience for visitors. The Museum's entire lower level is devoted to a re-creation of life in Late Territorial Wickenburg, including a fascinating permanent exhibit geared for children called *Out on the Ranch*. The Museum further enhances the visitor experience by offering a free audio guide tour system. The Museum also has two stores, The Museum Store and Ranch Dressing.

Visitor Information

The Desert Caballeros Western Museum is located in historic downtown Wickenburg at 21 N. Frontier St.

Current Hours of operation are:

Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday noon – 4:00 p.m.

Summer hours of operation are:

(Memorial Day to Labor Day) Tuesday–Saturday 10:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.; Sunday noon – 4:00 p.m.

For more information, call 928-684-2272,
email info@westernmuseum.org or
visit www.westernmuseum.org.

General admission is \$12.00 for adults, \$10.00 for seniors (60+) and AAA members, and free admission for museum members and those 17 and under.