

DESERT CABALLEROS WESTERN MUSEUM

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

MEDIA RELEASE

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Summer Exhibitions to Open at Desert Caballeros Western Museum

-- Two new shows showcase the beauty and diversity of Western Art and Arizona's weather --

Wickenburg, Ariz. – Two new exhibitions will open at Desert Caballeros Western Museum on May 27.

How the West Is One: Contemporary Western Art from the Tia Collection presents contemporary Western art not as a fractured set of genres, but as one collective story of the West, told through a number of multicultural perspectives. Interdependence is a hallmark of the American West. Take a road trip through Arizona and you will see evidence of our multicultural past – street names in Spanish, ghost towns once inhabited by fortune seekers from the American East, and town names with Native American origins. Through times of solidarity and times of strife, the people of the West have shared land, culture and technologies with each other, collectively building a grand narrative of the West.

The artists represented, each of whom have worked in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, explore their life experiences through a variety of mediums, including photography, painting, and sculpture. The 30 visionary artists represented include Bill Anton, Joellyn Duesberry, Lunda Gil, Allan Houser, Louisa McElwain, and Paul Pletka. The exhibition runs from May 27, 2017 – March 4, 2018. With this exhibition of pieces never before seen at Desert Caballeros Western Museum, the Museum truly embraces its objective of presenting the “Old West, the New West, and the Next West.”

Stormy Weather: Western Atmospheres also opens on Saturday, May 27. It might be surprising that Arizona, a state that encompasses a large portion of the dry Sonoran desert, should be famous for its rain. Buzzwords like “haboob”, “monsoon”, and “flash flood” have been engrained in the nation’s imagination by national newscasts and viral videos on social media. Those exotic terms echo our idea of the “Wild” West as untamed and unpredictable. In a land of outlaws, even the weather seems to defy the laws of physics. Just as the West is more than vigilantes and lawmen, Arizona’s weather is more than dust clouds and thunderstorms. From record-breaking heat waves to snowy blizzards, from the Colorado Plateau to the Sonoran Desert, Arizonans have learned to prepare, react to, and live in harmony with the state’s unpredictable weather. *Stormy Weather: Western Atmospheres* captures a range of human responses to Arizona’s diverse weather conditions. Artists strive to capture the power and beauty of monsoons in their work, while scientists seek to understand the weather with measuring tools and equipment. Residents of Arizona cope with these extremes by donning protective clothing and constructing weather-resistant homes and structures. The artists featured in the

exhibition include Ed Mell, Myrna Harrison, Merrill Mahaffey, and Denise LaRue Mahlke. *Stormy Weather* runs from May 27 – October 8, 2017.

The Museum will celebrate the exhibitions with an open house from 5:30 – 7 p.m. on Friday, June 2. “Friday on Frontier” will include free admission, family activities, and a tour of *How the West Is One* with Tia Collection Curator Laura Finlay Smith. Food vendors will offer dinner and desserts for purchase.

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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.