

DESERT CABALLEROS WESTERN MUSEUM

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

MEDIA RELEASE

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Painter and sculptor Ed Mell Named Recipient of 2020 DCWM Lifetime Achievement Award

- *Award will be presented at the 7th annual heART of the West Gala on January 18, 2020 -*

Wickenburg, AZ – Painter, sculptor, and illustrator Ed Mell will become the seventh recipient of the Desert Caballeros Western Museum’s Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual heART of the West Gala in the Museum’s Cultural Crossroads Learning Center on Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Born in 1942, Ed Mell grew up in what was then the small Western city of Phoenix. He attended the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles and subsequently relocated to New York as an art director for a large advertising agency. Seeking to escape the confines of advertising, Mell opened an illustration studio and became a national success. He returned Arizona in 1970 and reconnected with his home state, where he began painting the landscapes he is well-known for.

Mell’s work brings an architectural eye to the desert, emphasizing graphic elements and streamlining details to serve his vision. From landscapes to storms, longhorn cattle to desert flowers, he presents the American Southwest in bold colors and lines, energizing the vistas with his singular style.

In addition to oil, Mell has worked in bronze and print. His work has found homes in many private collections, including those of Tri-Star Pictures, Diane Keaton, and Arnold Schwarzenegger; as well as the public art collections of Glendale, Arizona and Scottsdale, Arizona. He has exhibited in Museums across the United States, such as the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, the Rockwell-Corning Museum of Modern Art, and the Booth Museum of Western Art. In Arizona, his work can be found in the collections of the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, the Phoenix Art Museum, the Tucson Museum of Art, and the Desert Caballeros Western Museum.

“Ed Mell’s command of subjects both large and small with an angularity of style, and his ability to excel in multiple venues and media, makes him incomparable”, says Desert Caballeros Western Museum Executive Director Dan Finley. “He is, without a doubt, one of our state’s foremost living artists.”

The heART of the West Gala was conceived in 2014 to pay tribute to people who reflect the unbridled creativity and history of the American West, and to recognize those who inspire others while shaping the West’s cultural legacy. The Gala is chaired by Betty Watt and includes a seated dinner, awards presentation, and live auction benefitting the Museum. Tickets for the Gala are \$175 per person and will become available for purchase on October 1, 2019 at westernmuseum.org or by calling 928-684-2272. Tickets are limited in availability.

An exhibition of Mell's work will be on view in the Museum's Fisher Gallery from December 21, 2019 through March 8, 2020.

For more information about this event or the Desert Caballeros Western Museum, contact Amanda Schlueter, Marketing and Membership Manager, at 928-684-2272 or marketing@westernmuseum.org.

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About the Museum

Embark on a genuine adventure at Desert Caballeros Western Museum in historic Wickenburg, Arizona, where world class art collections meet interactive historical exhibitions. At the core of the Museum's art collection are prized works by George Catlin, Albert Bierstadt, Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, the Cowboy Artists of America and the Taos Society of Artists. Fine art by Deborah Copenhaver Fellows, Cynthia Rigden, Billy Schenck, Curt Walters and more offer a contemporary perspective. The Museum's lower level is an immersive tour of 1912 Wickenburg, featuring life-scale scenes and detailed dioramas that depict the history of Wickenburg and the desert frontier.

DCWM's frequently rotating special exhibitions include the annual *Cowgirl Up! Art from the Other Half of the West* exhibition and sale, featuring more than 50 of the West's best women artists. The Museum's Cultural Crossroads Learning Center offers dozens of lectures, workshops, and concerts throughout the year, and two Museum Stores offer a unique selection of books and gifts made in Arizona.

Desert Caballeros Western Museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

Visitor Information

The Desert Caballeros Western Museum is located in historic downtown Wickenburg at 21 North Frontier Street.

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 for Museum Members, active duty military, and those age 17 and under.