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The New West: The Rise of Contemporary Indigenous and Western Art
December 2, 2022 to April 15, 2023

The Steamboat Art Museum is excited to announce its upcoming winter exhibition will break new ground and bring a different type of Western art to the region. Opening December 2, 2022, "The New West: The Rise of Contemporary Indigenous and Western Art" will chronicle the beginnings of this sub-genre in the 1960s and highlights the artists of today who are moving it forward. Guest curated by Seth Hopkins, Executive Director of the Booth Western Art Museum, Cartersville, Georgia, the exhibition will feature fresh takes on Indigenous and Western subjects, created by a diverse cross-section of artists.

Over the past 16 years, the Steamboat Art Museum (SAM) has developed a strong reputation for showing the art of living masters. Most exhibitions have focused on representational or impressionist styles. Beginning with this exhibition, and through the coming year, SAM intends to broaden its exhibition schedule and educational programs, to better serve its mission "to reflect and enhance our culture and heritage." The goals for this exhibition are to investigate the perceived boundaries of Indigenous and Western art, attract new audiences through exposure to contemporary art, and celebrate the impact the Institute of American Indian Arts has had on the art world through its early visionary art faculty and creative students.

Western art is often dismissed as being unchanged since the days of Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell. This exhibition attempts to bury that notion by showcasing contemporary Indigenous and Western paintings, sculpture and other media. Visitors will first encounter a selection of work by artists who kicked the doors open for new interpretations in Indigenous and Western art. Works by Fritz Scholder and Allan Houser, both instructors at IAIA headline this grouping, along with early IAIA students T.C. Cannon, Earl Biss, Doug Hyde, Dan Namingha and Kevin Red Star plus work by R.C. Gorman and John Nieto. Most of the selected living artists will provide multiple works of art for sale to the public throughout the exhibition that runs December 2, 2022 to April 15, 2023.

The remainder of the exhibition highlights living artists who tackle a wide variety of subjects in varying motifs, constantly pushing the boundaries, adding width and breadth to the Indigenous and Western genre. Tammy Garcia, Ed Mell, Michael Naranjo, Shonto Begay, Kim Wiggins, Billy Schenck, Tony Abeyta, Duke Beardsley, Howard Post, Donna Howell Sickles, and Maeve Eichelberger are just some of the more than 25 artists who will be participating. The exhibition is being drawn together from important collections around the country built on a core group of masterworks from the Tia Collection in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Booth Museum, along with regional museums and private collections.