

THE BRISCOE'S SUMMER EXHIBITION SHOWCASES THE FOUNDATION AND THE FUTURE OF WESTERN ART

The Sons of Charlie Russell: Cowboy Artists of America Premiers at the Briscoe May 27 – Sept. 5

San Antonio, TX – (March 2022) Spotlights the founding fathers of Western art alongside artists who have safeguarded the traditional style of this uniquely American art form, [The Sons of Charlie Russell: Cowboy Artists of America premiers](#) at the Briscoe Western Art Museum May 27 – Sept. 5. The exhibition traces the successive artwork of the Cowboy Artists of America, an organization formed to promote the West and cowboy life in art, from its founders, and those who inspired them, to today's contemporary members.

Western art has long defined the American West for audiences around the world—illustrating the lives, landscape, and wildlife that make the West what it is. Artists Charles M. Russell, Frederic Remington, Edward Borein, W.R. Leigh, and Frank Tenney Johnson helped codify the look and style of traditional Western art that inspired [Cowboy Artists of America](#) (CAA). Since its founding, the CAA has been committed to authentically preserving and perpetuating the culture of Western life in fine art while maintaining high standards of quality, an objective that continues to be met today.

Featuring works typically only seen in private collections and never before exhibited together, the exhibition includes 70 works of art encompassing paintings, sculpture and works on paper. Forty artists are featured, with works dating from 1890 to the present day. Viewed through this long historical lens, the exhibition defines a core set of criteria for what traditional Western art is, solidifying the strength and vibrancy of the genre.

“Since its founding, the Cowboy Artists of America has influenced the field of Western art more than any other artist collective in the world,” said Michael Duchemin, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Briscoe Western Art Museum. “CAA artists work to convey the importance of hard work, independence, ruggedness, conservation of the rural landscapes, and neighborliness. Through their art, these ‘Sons of Charlie Russell’ have kept alive the ongoing national fascination and nostalgia for the mythic American West.”

Curated by Emily Wilson, the Curator of Art for the Briscoe, *The Sons of Charlie Russell* features historical works by Remington, Borein, Russell, Leigh and Johnson along with works by members of the Cowboy Artists of America. The exhibition includes works from 17 lenders including the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, the Booth Western Art Museum, the Eddie Basha Collection, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and the Sid Richardson Museum, as well as private lenders from Texas, Arizona,

Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming, making the exhibition the first, and only time these works will be viewed together. Nine of the featured works are sourced from the Briscoe's permanent collection.

"Accuracy and detail in portraying figures, landscape, and artifacts are an important means of communicating the authentic West. Many of the CAA artists collect artifacts, consult historic sources, and maintain a working knowledge of ranching, rodeo, and cowboying in order to improve their portrayal of the historical and contemporary West," explained Emily Wilson, Curator of Art at the Briscoe. "Altogether, each of the artworks was chosen as an exemplary piece from the artist's body of work that captured the spirit of the West as only they could – portraying the pathos, grit, grandeur and comradery that knit together the past and the present of a uniquely American experience."

Following a preview party on May 26, a series of events kicks off the exhibition May 27 – 29. The exhibition is open to the public May 27 – Sept. 5. The robust range of events and programs accompanying *The Sons of Charlie Russell* is sure to make the Briscoe a frequent summer destination for those who love the genre as well as those who simply enjoy the rugged beauty, diverse people, and wildlife who call the West home.

The Sons of Charlie Russell: Cowboy Artists of America is supported in part by Mr. and Mrs. Marrs McLean Bowman, Jan McCaleb Elliott, the Klesse Foundation, Jessica Elliott Middleton, and Debbie and John T. Montford.

Showcasing Art and Artifacts of the West

From its McNutt Sculpture Garden to the museum's beautifully restored historic home inside the former San Antonio Public Library building, the Briscoe's collection spans 14 galleries, with special exhibitions, events and a fantastic museum store, providing art, culture, history and entertainment. Museum hours, programs, parking and admission details are available [online](#).

About [The Briscoe Western Art Museum](#): *Preserving and presenting the art, history and culture of the American West through engaging exhibitions, educational programs and public events reflective of the region's rich traditions and shared heritage, the Briscoe Western Art Museum is located on the San Antonio River Walk at 210 W. Market Street in the beautifully restored 1930s former San Antonio Public Library building. Named in honor of the late Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe Jr. and his wife, Janey Slaughter Briscoe, the museum includes the three-story Jack Guenther Pavilion, used for event rentals and programs, and the outdoor McNutt Sculpture Garden. Follow the Briscoe on social media, @BriscoeMuseum.*