

**FALL INTO STORIES, NATIVE AMERICAN FILMS
AND DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS AT THE BRISCOE**

Museum Announces the Return of Native American Film Series

***Storytellers: Narrative Art and the West* Invites Everyone to Add Their Story
to the Stories of the Southwest**

New Exhibition Opens Oct. 4

San Antonio, TX – (September 2024) Pictographs, paintings and other forms of visual art have long been powerful tools for storytelling, offering a form of narrative art that conveys meaning through imagery rather than words. From the return of the museum's Native American film series, hands-on workshops celebrating Día de los Muertos and a full day celebrating the Indigenous influence on the American West to the opportunity to share your story on the walls of the Briscoe Western Art Museum's latest exhibition, captivating stories come to life at the Briscoe this fall.

Opening Oct. 4, [*Storytellers: Narrative Art and the West*](#) reveals a window into the rich history, culture and landscapes of the Southwest, sharing the breadth of narrative art produced in the Southwest from the early twentieth century to today. The exhibition features more than 70 remarkable works curated from the prestigious collections of the New Mexico Museum of Art, the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, the Briscoe and private lenders. The exhibition is included with museum admission.

Telling the Story of the Southwest Through Narrative Art

By blending visual elements with symbolism, narrative art invites connection with stories on a deeper, more emotional level. [*Storytellers: Narrative Art and the West*](#) explores the many ways artists have told stories about the Southwest in their art, including religious, migratory, historical and rural subjects.

The range of artists and the stylistic variation represented in ***Storytellers: Narrative Art and the West*** offer a variety of lenses, allowing audiences to engage with the region's complex and evolving history and culture. The exhibition showcases the talents of renowned artists like Fritz Scholder, Gerald Cassidy, Alan Houser and Henry Balink, who bring diverse perspectives on cowboy, Native and Spanish cultures, alongside works by Frederic Remington, Andy Warhol, Billy Schenck, Logan Maxwell Hagege, Martin Grelle and Mark Maggiori.

Guiding questions throughout the exhibition invite visitors to take a closer look at the works on display – and dive into the stories they tell – while stations throughout the

exhibition ask visitors to share their own stories. Visitors can then hang their story on the exhibition's community story wall.

Prefer telling stories through pictures? A special mini-drawing lab offers visitors the opportunity to practice the techniques of gesture drawing – a quick sketching technique that helps capture the essence of a subject's pose, movement or expression – and create their own narrative art.

Storytellers: Narrative Art and the West was organized by the New Mexico Museum of Art. The exhibition is sponsored in part by The City of San Antonio, Jan McCaleb Elliott, Jessica Elliott Middleton and The Texas Commission on the Arts.

Celebrating Stories: Storyteller Exhibition Opening Events

The Briscoe is hosting a preview party to open ***Storytellers***, followed by a series of events that feature the exhibition curator and other special guests. Opening events include:

- ***Storytellers: Narrative Art and the West*** [Exclusive Preview Party](#)
Thursday, Oct. 3, 6 – 8 p.m.

Be the first to explore the exhibition and tell your story with Liz Jackson, President and CEO of the Briscoe, and Christian Waguespack, Head of Curatorial Affairs and Curator of 20th Century Art at the New Mexico Museum of Art and Vladem Contemporary. Guest curator of ***Storytellers***, Waguespack joined the New Mexico Museum of Art in 2017 and organizes exhibitions, coordinates acquisitions, conducts research on the Museum's collection focusing on modern and contemporary art, and the art of the American Southwest.

The event includes complimentary valet, beer, wine, specialty cocktails and light bites. Tickets are \$25 for museum members and Contributing and President's Society membership tiers receive two tickets. Museum members may upgrade their membership by calling the Briscoe's Membership Coordinator at 210.299.4499 and nonmembers can purchase tickets for \$45. Tickets are [available online](#).

- ***Storytellers: Conversation with the Curator***
Exhibition tour with guest curator Christian Waguespack
Friday, Oct. 4, 2 – 3 p.m., included with museum admission
Saturday, Oct. 5, 2 – 3 p.m., included with museum admission

Talk with a leading expert in the field of narrative art and enjoy a tour of the exhibition with curator Christian Waguespack as he provides unique insight into the art and discusses the special connection ***Storytellers*** has with New Mexico.

Community Ofrenda, Art and Día de los Muertos: Sharing the Stories of the Departed

Ofrenda: Oct. 3 through Nov. 4, included with museum admission

[Painting with DiZurita:](#) Oct. 19, 6 – 8 p.m., \$45, \$25 for museum members

[Sugar Skull Pinatas:](#) Oct. 27, 1 – 2:30 p.m., 3 – 4:30 p.m., \$20, \$15 for museum members

Calaveritas: Oct. 27, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m., included with museum admission

In celebration of Día de los Muertos, the community is invited to participate in the Briscoe's community ofrenda honoring influential figures in Western art and the American West. Everyone is welcome to add photos of lost loved ones and personal offerings to help celebrate their lives. The ofrenda will be on display in the museum lobby and free Día de los Muertos-themed crafts will be available for those who would like to participate. The Briscoe's [Hendler Family Museum Store](#) will have Día de los Muertos items available for those who wish to add to their offerings.

Enjoy a [Día de los Muertos painting session](#) led by energetic and charismatic international artist Gio DiZurita. Based in San Antonio, DiZurita tells stories through her art, an everlasting transformation of life experiences. Create your own Catrina or sugar skull masterpiece while sipping beer, wine, or prickly pear margaritas. You'll create an acrylic painting on an 11 x 14 canvas in a hands-on session with Gio as she guides guests through a take-home work of art. Registration for this 21+ event is per person and includes beer, wine and all supplies. Class size is limited, so [register today to secure your spot](#).

For more Día de los Muertos celebration, join local artist Adriana Gamez as she leads guests through a sugar skull piñata class, sharing cultural insights and crafting techniques while helping everyone create a sugar skull piñata filled with Mexican candy. Light refreshments and all supplies needed to create an 11" inch piñata, as well as the candy, are included. Participants also receive admission to the museum. One ticket per person, both adults and children, is required. Two sessions are being held to accommodate everyone, but spots are limited so [register quickly](#) to avoid missing out.

Stop in on Oct. 27 as artist Renée Letapi-Gamez leads everyone in painting miniature sugar skull canvases you can take home to commemorate Día de los Muertos. A student at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Renée Letapi-Gamez draws inspiration from Latin culture and is a Día de los Muertos aficionado. Her focus is on small works inspired by catrinas, calveras and alebrijes. She'll share her passion for these traditional elements of Día de los Muertos and help everyone create their own miniatures. The drop-in activity is included with museum admission and all materials are provided.

Native American Film Series Returns

Storytelling is a vital tradition in Native American heritage, serving as a powerful way to pass down knowledge, history and cultural values from one generation to the next.

As part of the ***Storytellers*** exhibition, the Briscoe is proud to announce the reboot of its Native American Film Series, a celebration of Indigenous storytelling through the lens of contemporary cinema. This series spotlights films created by Native American filmmakers and artists, offering audiences a unique opportunity to engage with the stories, cultures and histories of Indigenous communities from the American West.

All films were directed, written, produced by and/or star Native Americans. Matthew Davila, a member of the Standing Rock Lakota Sioux Tribe, curated the series and will lead

a short presentation before each film. The films are included with museum admission and are free for members. The series includes:

- “Rez Ball,” Sunday, Oct. 20, 2 p.m.
- “Windtalkers,” Sunday, Nov. 17, 2 p.m.
- “Indian Relay,” Sunday, Jan. 12, 2 p.m.

Storytellers: Sculpture Demonstration and Conversation with Artist Ed Natiya
Meet the Artist

Thursday, Nov. 14, 6 – 8 p.m., included with general admission

Storytellers features a range of Indigenous art and stories, including two sculptures from Navajo artist Ed Natiya. Featured in the Briscoe’s annual **Night of Artists**, Natiya captures the essence of Indigenous peoples from an authentic perspective. His sculpture and artwork radiate with life, love and beauty, sharing stories and Native wisdom as it once was, in hopes that these teachings and values may be remembered and appreciated for years to come. Join Natiya as he demonstrates his sculpture techniques, then enjoy a conversation with Natiya as he discusses his sculptures, inspiration, art and storytelling with Tim Newton, Publisher Emeritus of “Western Art & Architecture” and Briscoe’s Curator of *Night of Artists* and Special Exhibitions.

Step Into the Stories of the West at the Briscoe

Showcasing the purely American art form of Western art on the South end of San Antonio’s River Walk, the Briscoe Western Art Museum celebrates the past, present and future of the storied genre through the art and artifacts in its permanent collection as well as through the range of exhibitions it features annually. An oasis of Western beauty just off the River Walk, the McNutt Sculpture Garden and the museum grounds feature 35 sculptures portraying various aspects of Western life. Inside 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 the Hendler Family Museum Store, providing art, culture, history and entertainment. Museum hours, 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.*