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**The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum Announces the
Winners of the 49th Annual *Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition & Sale***

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Cowboy hosted the 49th Annual *Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition & Sale* Weekend with in-person events and virtual live-streaming options, June 25 – 26, 2021. The event is the Museum’s largest annual fundraiser, raising \$2.68 million this year. A portion of the proceeds are allocated toward funding the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum’s exhibitions and family programming.

“For 49 years we have had the privilege of producing *Prix de West* and showcasing some of the finest representations of Western art in the nation,” said Natalie Shirley, Museum President and CEO. “We are honored to welcome back our artists and patrons both in person and virtually for an amazing and beloved annual celebration of the arts. We are looking forward to another amazing event next year for the 50th *Prix de West* here at The Cowboy.”

The top-honored *Prix de West* Purchase Award winner, given to the artist whose work of art is selected by the *Prix de West* Committee and purchased for the Museum’s permanent collection, was awarded to Greg Beecham, for his 30” x 48” Oil on linen painting titled *Gone Fishin’*. Beecham received the \$34,000 purchase price, a \$5,000 award, and the *Prix de West* medallion sponsored by Roberta M. Eldridge Miller.

After the announcement was made in the Museum’s Sam Noble Special Events Center, Beecham said, “I’d be lying if I said I’d never dreamed of this. But I never thought it would happen. This is the big one. This is the greatest honor I’ve ever had and the greatest honor I’ll ever get.”

Other 2021 award winners are:

- The Jackie L. Coles Buyers' Choice Award was given to Bonnie Marris for her 40" x 30" Oil on canvas painting titled *A Cold Reception*. Priced at \$19,000, the piece sold during the Saturday evening fixed-price sale. The \$3,000 award is given to the most popular work of art chosen by *Prix de West* patrons and is sponsored by the Estate of the late Jackie L. Coles.
- Daniel F. Gerhartz, received the Frederic Remington Painting Award for his 60" x 40" Oil painting titled *Wayfaring Stranger*. The painting priced at \$42,000 sold during the Saturday evening fixed-price sale. Gerhartz received a \$3,000 award for exceptional artistic merit for a painting sponsored by Donna Holt, Jan Provine, and Terri Saddler, in loving memory of their parents, Russ and Dortha Sadler, lifetime members and docents.
- The Major General and Mrs. Don D. Pittman Wildlife Award was given to Daniel Smith for his 24" x 36" Acrylic painting titled *Through the Caldera*. The painting priced at \$20,000 sold during the Saturday evening fixed-price sale. The \$3,000 award for exceptional artistic merit for a wildlife painting or sculpture is sponsored by the Estate of the late Major General and Mrs. Don D. Pittman.
- The James Earle Fraser Sculpture Award was presented to Ross Matteson for his 15" H x 10" W x 9" D Cast bronze sculpture titled *Black Merlin*. The sculpture priced at \$12,000 sold during the Saturday evening fixed-price sale. The \$3,000 award for exceptional artistic merit for a sculpture is sponsored by the Charlie Russell Riders in honor of Steve Rose.
- The Express Ranches Great American Cowboy Award, honoring the finest portrayal of cowboy subject matter, was presented to Eric Bowman for his 38" x 36" Oil painting titled *Overlook*. The painting priced at \$19,800 sold during the Saturday evening fixed-price sale. The \$3,000 award is sponsored by Robert A. Funk and Express Ranches.
- The Donald Teague Memorial Award, honoring an exceptional work of art on paper, was presented to Joel R. Johnson for his 25" x 38" Transparent watercolor painting titled *Sunset Reflections*. The painting priced at \$12,000 sold during the Saturday evening fixed-price sale. The \$3,000 award was sponsored by Scottsdale Art Auction.
- The Wilson Hurley Memorial Award for an outstanding landscape was presented to Skip Whitcomb for his 30" x 36" Oil on linen painting titled *Moses Coulee Mares*. The painting is priced at \$21,500. The award of \$3,000 was sponsored by Moore Tax and Financial Services.
- On rare occasions, the *Prix de West* Committee will present an additional award to acknowledge excellence in a work of art. The Directors' Choice Award for Excellence was awarded to John Moyers for his 24" x 96" Oil on canvas painting titled *Vanguard of the Northern Plains*. The painting priced at \$78,000 sold during the Saturday evening fixed-

price sale. The award of \$3,000 was sponsored by an anonymous member of the *Prix de West* Committee.

- The Robert Lougheed Memorial Award was awarded to Scott Burdick for his collection of four paintings titled *The Many, Colors, Of Our, Nation*. All pieces in the collection sold during the Saturday night fixed-price sale: *The Many* for \$6,500, *Colors* for \$14,000, *Of Our* for \$18,000 and *Nation* for \$14,000. The award of \$3,000 for best display of three or more works is chosen by *Prix de West* exhibiting artists and sponsored by Barbara and Roger Simons in memory of Faydra and George Simons, true Western enthusiasts.

All unsold art remains on display to the public and available for purchase through August 8, 2021. See available works on the online catalog: pdw.nationalcowboymuseum.org.

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***Prix de West* Sponsors**

The *49th Annual Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition & Sale* was made possible by the Presenting Event Sponsor, Eskridge Lexus of Oklahoma City, with generous Major Sponsorship support from Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Atherton, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory M. Simon and the Dellora A. & Lester J. Norris Foundation. Associate Sponsors include Southwestern Stationery and Bank Supply, a Southwestern Group Company, Ghostwood, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Grant and American Fidelity Foundation. Other Sponsors include Mr. and Mrs. Steven Olshan, Panera, Kent and Teresa Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Stieb, Southwest Art Appraisals and Uline.

About The 49th Annual Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition & Sale

Prix de West is the Museum's largest annual fundraiser and features original Western paintings and sculptures by the nation's finest contemporary artists. This year the exhibition and sale features more than 90 artists and more than 260 painting and sculpture and welcome renowned artist Ed Mell as well as guest artists Thomas Blackshear II, Huihan Liu and Roseta Santiago.

About the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

Nationally accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum is located only six miles northeast of downtown Oklahoma City in the Adventure District at the junction of Interstates 44 and 35, the state's exciting Adventure Road corridor. The Museum offers annual memberships beginning at just \$40. For more information, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org. For high-resolution images related to the National Cowboy Museum and *Prix de West* award winners, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/media-pics.