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Looking Through the Windows to the West

Upcoming exhibition explores the history of five of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's most iconic paintings.

OKLAHOMA CITY – Since 1996, visitors have marveled at the five massive triptychs painted by artist Wilson Hurley that have adorned the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Sam Noble Special Event Center. With The Cowboy's newest exhibition, *Looking Through the Windows to the West*, on display in the Brodtkin Gallery from July 29, 2022, to February 19, 2023, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of the preparation and planning that went into creating these impressive works.

The five Western scenes, painted on the same horizon line and measuring more than 16 feet in height, depict landscapes in Arizona, California, Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming.

“At The Cowboy, our curators work to give a complete picture of the art, landscapes, histories and culture of the American West,” said Natalie Shirley, President and CEO at The Cowboy. “Looking at these impressive works truly feels like looking through a window to the West, and now visitors can see how Hurley accomplished such an impressive feat.”

After receiving his commission, Hurley spent time in Europe studying iconic minimalist painters and carefully planned his paintings before ever taking a brush to canvas. He worked on the project from 1991 to 1996.

The exhibition will display mathematical perspective diagrams, color studies, early oil sketches, photographs, museum documents and video of the artist creating these impressive artworks. Educational programs will be offered while this exhibition is open to provide visitors an even deeper understanding.

For more information on the exhibition and related programming, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org.

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About the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City is America's premier institution of Western history, art and culture. Founded in 1955, the Museum collects, preserves and exhibits an internationally renowned collection of Western art and artifacts while sponsoring dynamic educational programs to stimulate interest in the enduring legacy of the American West. The Museum is located only six miles northeast of downtown Oklahoma City at 1700 Northeast 63rd Street. For more information, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org.