MADONNAS OF THE PRAIRIE: Depictions of Women in the American West

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NORMAN, OKLA. (October 2, 2014) – Michael R. Grauer, the Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs and the Curator of Art and Western Heritage at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, in Canyon, Texas, will deliver a public lecture titled “Madonnas of the Prairie: Depictions of Women in the American West,” on Friday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m., in the Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 555 Elm Ave., in the OU Arts District. The illustrated lecture is open to the public with no admission charge and is presented by the OU School of Art and Art History’s Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West, as part of the Merkel Family Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series.

From the passive observer or victim to the “rough and ready” and the “Cow-Boy Girl” to the “Pioneer Mother” or “Madonna of the Prairie,” this lecture, which corresponds with a current exhibition at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, will explore the depictions of women in the American West as seen in art from the 1800s to the 20th Century. Some of the artists in the exhibition include Dorothea Lange, Beulah Schiller Ayars, H. D. Bugbee, W. Herbert Dunton, Ben Carlton Mead, Gerald Cassidy, W. H. D. Koerner, Remington Schuyler, Gina Knee, Herbert Morton Stoops, Margaret Wright Tupper, P. V. E. Ivory, Olin Travis, and Jerry Bywaters.

Founded in 1998, the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West is the first such university-based program in the nation. The center is dedicated to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge in the field of American art history as it relates to the western United States. Through its resource holdings, national symposia, lecture series, course offerings and outreach programs, the Russell Center actively engages students and the public in developing a better understanding of, and appreciation for, 19th- and 20th-century Euro-American and Native American artistic traditions. Special focus is given to the art of Charles M. Russell and his contemporaries. For more information on the Russell Center, visit the resources section of art.ou.edu. For accommodations on the basis of disability, call (405) 325-5939.

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Editors: please find attached accompanying images with the following credit information:
Michael R. Grauer, Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs and Curator of Art and Western Heritage, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, TX. Photograph by Eric Alexander.