

Merkel Family Foundation
Spring 2005
Distinguished Lecture Series

The Charles M. Russell Center
of the University of Oklahoma
School of Art



Anatomy Lesson by Chuck Forsman, 1999
Photograph by Craig Smith. Collection of the Phoenix Art Museum.
Museum purchase with funds provided by Western Art Associates.

presents

James Ballinger

The Sybil Harrington Director

Phoenix Art Museum

New Definitions for Western American Art in the Twenty-First Century

Thursday, April 28, 2005 at 7 p.m., free and open to the public
Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art | Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium
410 W Boyd Street

followed by a reception at 8 p.m
at the **Charles M. Russell Center, Old Faculty Club**
409 West Boyd Street



Charles M.
RUSSELL CENTER
for the Study of Art of the American West

The University of Oklahoma School of Art • <http://art.ou.edu/russellcenter/> • 405-325-5939

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**PHOENIX ART MUSEUM DIRECTOR
TO OFFER FREE LECTURE AT OU**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORMAN – The Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West at the University of Oklahoma School of Art will present a lecture by James Ballinger, director of the Phoenix Art Museum. He will speak at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2005, in the auditorium of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Ballinger, a leading authority on American art, has been director of the Phoenix Art Museum since 1982. His lecture, “New Definitions for Western American Art in the 21st Century,” will focus on museum issues related to collecting art of the American West. The lecture is part of the Merkel Family Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series.

The lecture will be followed by a reception at the Charles M. Russell Center in the Old Faculty Club, 409 W. Boyd St. Both the lecture and reception are free and open to the public. For more information on the Russell Center, visit <http://art.ou.edu/russellcenter/>. For accommodations on the basis of disability, call 325-5939.

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.

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Editors: please find attached a scan of the painting *Anatomy Lesson*, by Chuck Forsman, 1999, in the collection of the Phoenix Art Museum. This painting is a dramatic western landscape, similar to ones by earlier painters. Closer examination reveals a hillside torn apart by earthmovers and suggests the idea of limitations for the western landscape, which illustrates a broader context for Western American art in the 21st century.