Decorative Arts and the American West

The Charles M. Russell Center
For the Study of Art of the American West
The University of Oklahoma School of Art & Art History

presents the

Seventh Biennial Symposium

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday, April 20, 2012

Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art
555 Elm Avenue
Norman, OK 73019-3003

FREE and open to the public, with nominal fee for optional lunch

In the OU Arts District!

For more information, to make reservations for the optional lunch, or for accommodations on the basis of disability, please call us at (405) 325-9939 or visit us online at art.ou.edu/russellcenter/

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.

Guest Speakers:

ANITA J. ELLIS
Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs, Cincinnati Art Museum

JAMES H. NOTTAGE
Vice President, Chief Curatorial Officer and Gund Curator of Western Art, History and Culture, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis

EUGENE W. "WALLY" REBER
Former Associate Director of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyo., and an artist and furniture maker

CHERYL ROBERTSON

Humidor, 1889
Robert Francis Hunter, Tiffany and Company, Sterling silver, cast, acid-etched, 9 1/4 x 12 3/4 x 8 1/8 in. [23.49 x 32.38 x 20.64 cm]
Dallas Museum of Art, Foundation for the Arts Collection, Mrs. John B. O'Hara Fund, 1993.69.1.A-E.FA
DECORATIVE ARTS
AND THE
AMERICAN WEST

Charles M. Russell Center
for the Study of Art of the American West
at the University of Oklahoma School of Art and Art History

SEVENTH BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM
Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday, April 20, 2012

Humidor, 1911
Robert Francis Wine, Tiffany and Company
Silver, pine wood, silvered
Overall: 9 1/4 x 12 3/4 x 8 1/8 in. (23.4 x 32.4 x 20.6 cm)
Dallas Museum of Art, Acquisition for the Arts Collection, Mrs. John S. Hoot Judging Gift, 1993.91, A-E.73a
ABOUT THE CHARLES M. RUSSELL CENTER

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, which opened to the public in fall 1999, 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 national symposia and lectures, resource center, course offerings, book series, and related outreach programs, the Russell Center actively engages students and the public in developing a better understanding of, and appreciation for, 19th through 21st century Euro-American and Native American artistic traditions. Special focus is given to the art of Charles M. Russell and his contemporaries.

The Russell Center was established at the University of Oklahoma concurrently with an endowed professorship in art history, the Charles Marion Russell Memorial Chair. Both the center and the endowed chair were made possible through a generous gift from the Nancy Russell Trust and matching funds from the State of Oklahoma.

The Russell Center, as an integral part of the OU School of Art and Art History and the OU Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts, is both a facility and a program designed to inspire and excite interest in the study of American western art, an aesthetic history that enjoys both a regional and national dimension. While a branch of American art, western art also incorporates European artistic traditions that have, over time, been adapted to themes, experiences and environments unique to the western United States. Art of the American West also encompasses Native American cultures, both as subjects of art and creative forces. During much of America's history, the West also was, in a myth, a dream, an inspiration, a collection of individual experiences, a process of westering and a destination. For them, the West was something spiritual as well as corporeal, a sacred domain as well as a common home. The center's course of study in art of the American West seeks to discover what the West symbolized -- and to whom and why.

Visitors to the Russell Center have access to an ever-growing collection of scholarly resources on art of the American West and Native American art. The center houses books, periodical and newsletter titles, video and audio items, dissertations and theses, archival materials, artist papers and one-of-a-kind files. Additionally, the center owns a few original artworks by historic and contemporary western artists and is home to more than 100 early prints of paintings by Charles M. Russell.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

9 - 9:30 a.m.  CHECK-IN

9:30 - 10 a.m.  B. BYRON PRICE
Director, Charles M. Russell Center
and University of Oklahoma Press
Opening Remarks

10 - 10:45 a.m.

11 - 11:45 a.m.  EUGENE W. "WALLY" REBER
Former Associate Director, Buffalo Bill Historical
Center, Cody, Wyo.
Artist and Furniture Maker
Seeking Western Style

Noon - 1:30 p.m.  LUNCHEON (Sandy Bell Gallery)

1:45 - 2:30 p.m.  ANITA J. ELLIS
Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs,
Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati
Rockwood Pottery and the American Indian

2:45 - 3:30 p.m.  JAMES H. NOITAGE
Vice President, Chief Curatorial Officer and Gund
Curator of Western Art, History, and Culture,
Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and
Western Art, Indianapolis
The Fine and Decorative Arts of Edward H. Bohlin

3:45 - 4 p.m.  CLOSING REMARKS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Sharon Burchett
(405) 325-5939
russellcenter@ou.edu

DECORATIVE ARTS AND THE AMERICAN WEST: RUSSELL CENTER SYMPOSIUM SET IN CONNECTION WITH POTTERY EXHIBITION

NORMAN, OKLA. (March 6, 2012) – “Decorative Arts and the American West,” the seventh biennial symposium of the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West at the University of Oklahoma, will take place on Friday, April 20, in the Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 555 Elm Ave., in the OU Arts District.

Beginning at 9 a.m., this daylong event is free and open to the public, with a nominal charge for an optional luncheon. Noted scholars, museum curators and art historians will discuss such diverse topics as ranch-style furniture, regionally inspired pottery and silver-mounted saddles. The symposium will precede the art exhibit opening, Oklahoma Clay: Frankoma Pottery, which will be held from 7 to 9 that evening.

Symposium speakers include:

• Anita J. Ellis, deputy director for curatorial affairs at the Cincinnati Art Museum, who will discuss “Rookwood Pottery and the American Indian”;

• James H. Nottage, vice president, chief curatorial officer and Gund Curator of Western Art, History and Culture at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis, who will speak on “The Fine and Decorative Arts of Edward H. Bohlin”;

• Eugene W. “Wally” Reber, former associate director of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyo., and an artist and furniture maker, who will discuss “Seeking Western Style”;
• Cheryl Robertson, independent scholar and museum professional from Cambridge, Mass., who will discuss “The Art and Craft of Native American Imagery in American Architecture and Decorative Arts, 1893-1923.”

A luncheon will be offered between sessions for registered participants. Cost is $20 per person or $10 per registered student participant. Vegetarian and vegan options may be ordered in advance. Seating is limited, and reservations may be made with the Russell Center at (405) 325-5939.

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