Fresh Tracks:
New Perspectives on the Art of Charles M. Russell

Fourth Biennial Symposium October 28 and 29, 2005

The University of Oklahoma
Charles M. Russell Center
for the Study of Art of the American West

Featured Speakers:

Raphael Cristy
Award-winning Historian/Actor
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Brian Dippie
Historian and Author
University of Victoria, British Columbia

Peter Hassrick
Director
Institute of Western American Art,
Denver Art Museum

Anne Morand
Chief Executive Officer
C.M. Russell Museum
Great Falls, Montana

B. Byron Price
Director
Charles M. Russell Center
for the Study of Art of the American West

Ginger K. Renner
Author and Russell Historian
Paradise Valley, Arizona

Charles M. Russell, Where Tracks Spell War or Meat, 1912, Oil on Canvas 12 x 25 inches. Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, OK

For more information contact the
Charles M. Russell Center
for the Study of Art of the American West
University of Oklahoma
405-325-5939
or visit our Web site at
art.ou.edu/russellcenter/

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.
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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 the fall of 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 resource center, national symposia, course offerings and related 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 emphasis is given to art of Charles M. Russell and his contemporaries.

The Russell Center was established concurrently with the Charles Marion Russell Chair, an endowed professorship in art history at the University of Oklahoma. 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. Administered through the School of Art and the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts, the Russell Center operates in concert with several of the University of Oklahoma’s other distinguished branches, including the Western History Collections, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, College of Liberal Studies, and the departments of History, Literature, Native American Studies, and Film and Video Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Russell Center also actively interfaces with institutions across the country, including museums of western art and universities that support related programs or collections of western material culture or art.

The Russell Center 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 a 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 as both subjects of art and as creative forces.

During much of America’s history, the West has been a defining national symbol. Although considered a region by Euro-Americans, the West also was a myth, a dream, an inspiration, a collection of individual experiences, a process of westering, and a destination. For Native Americans, however, process and destination played little part in their thinking. For them, the West was something spiritual as well as physical, a sacred domain as well as a common home. The Center’s course of study in the art of the American West seeks to discover what the West symbolized — and to whom and why.
Friday, Oct. 28
Paul F. Sharp Concert Hall, Catlett Music Center, 500 West Boyd St., with reception in Catlett’s Gothic Hall

6:30 p.m.  Reception (Open to the Public)

7:30 p.m.  Keynote Presentation: Raphael Cristy, Award-winning Historian/Actor, Albuquerque, N. M., *An Evening With Charles M. Russell*

Saturday, Oct. 29
Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 555 Elm Ave., with optional luncheon at Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave.

8-8:30 a.m.  Check-in, refreshments

8:30-9 a.m.  Opening remarks, B. Byron Price, Director, Charles M. Russell Center

9-9:45 a.m.  Peter Hasrick, Director, Institute of Western American Art, Denver Art Museum, *Charles Russell, Painter*

9:45-10:05 a.m.  Break

10:05-10:50 a.m.  Brian Dippie, Historian and Author, University of Victoria, British Columbia, *"He Has a Heap of Valuable Material": Philip Cole, Nancy Russell, and the Business of Russell Art*


11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  Luncheon, Oklahoma Memorial Union
Anne Morand, Chief Executive Officer, C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, Mont., *"Studies Made in the Saddle" – Charlie’s Early Works*

1:45-2:30 p.m.  Raphael Cristy, Award-winning Historian/Actor, Albuquerque, N. M., *Finding Modern Times in Charlie’s Local Color Stories*

2:30-3:15 p.m.  B. Byron Price, Director, Charles M Russell Center, *Charles M. Russell, Icon of the West*

3:15-3:45  p.m.  Closing Remarks
The University of Oklahoma School of Art

Charles M. Russell Center
for the Study of Art of the American West

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Charles M. Russell, Where Tracks Spell War or Meat, 1912,
Oil on Canvas 12 x 25 inches. Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, OK.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORMAN – “Fresh Tracks: New Perspectives on the Art of Charles M. Russell,” the fourth biennial symposium of the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West, will take place October 28-29, 2005, at the University of Oklahoma. The symposium is offered free and open to the public, with a nominal charge for an optional luncheon.

Raphael Cristy, award-winning historian/actor and previous lecturer for the Russell Center’s Merkel Family Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series, will provide a new look at the well-known cowboy artist through his keynote presentation, “An Evening with Charles M. Russell.” Cristy’s in-persona performance will be held in the Paul F. Sharp Concert Hall at the Catlett Music Center, 500 West Boyd, at 7:30 p.m., on Friday, Oct. 28. A free reception will precede the event, beginning at 6:30 p.m., and will take place in Catlett’s Gothic Hall. After the event, Cristy will be signing copies of his new book, Charles M. Russell, The Storyteller’s Art, published by the University of New Mexico Press.

The symposium continues at 8:30 a.m., on Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 555 Elm Avenue. During the daylong event, noted scholars and museum directors will discuss the work and significance of artist Charles M. Russell, from his paintings and sculptures to his well-heeled patrons and interesting life. This event is an opportunity to explore the career of one of the most significant artists of the late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century American West.

Symposium speakers include:

- Raphael Cristy, award-winning historian/actor, Albuquerque, New Mexico, who will discuss "Finding Modern Times in Charlie’s Local Color Stories";

- Brian Dippie, historian and author from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, who will speak on “‘He Has a Heap of Valuable Material’: Philip Cole, Nancy Russell, and the Business of Russell Art”;

- Peter Hassrick, director of the Institute of Western American Art at the Denver Art Museum, who will discuss "Charles Russell, Painter";
• Anne Morand, chief executive officer of the C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, Montana, who will present “Studies Made in the Saddle – Charlie’s Early Works,” during the Saturday luncheon; and

• Ginger K. Renner, author and noted Russell authority, Paradise Valley, Arizona, who will discuss “Charlie Russell’s ‘Boswell’”.

B. Byron Price, director, Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West will close the symposium with his presentation, “Charles M. Russell, Icon of the West.”

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A luncheon will be offered between sessions on Saturday, Oct. 29, for registered participants, at a cost of $15 per person (or $7.50 per registered student participant). For more information and accommodations on the basis of disability, contact the Russell Center at (405) 325-5939, or by e-mail (russellcenter@ou.edu). ###