Window to the Southwest: The Eugene B. Adkins Collection

Fifth Biennial Symposium  9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2008
Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art
555 Elm Avenue, Norman, OK 73019-3064

Featured Speakers:
Christina F. Burke
Curator of Native American and Non-Western Art
Philbrook Museum of Art

Amy Scott
Curator of Visual Arts
Autfey National Center

Mary Jo Watson
Director, University of Oklahoma School of Art and Art History
Curator of Native American Art, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art

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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 library, 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, nineteenth- and twentieth-century Euro-American and Native American artistic traditions. Special focus is given to 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 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 tradition 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 has been a defining national symbol. Although considered a region by Euro-Americans, the West was also 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 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.

The Russell Center's collection includes reference volumes, manuscripts, theses and dissertations, periodicals and journals, artist files and slides on or related to the subject of nineteenth- and twentieth-century western American art.
Friday, March 7

9 – 9:30 a.m.  Check in and refreshments

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.  Amy Scott
Curator of Visual Arts
Autry National Center, Los Angeles
The Production of Place: Taos Painting and the Landscape of Ritual

10:45 – 11:10 a.m.  Break

11:10 – 11:55 a.m.  Mary Jo Watson
Director, University of Oklahoma School of Art and Art History
and Curator of Native American Art, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art
Aesthetic Diversity in Native American Art

noon – 1:30 p.m.  Luncheon and remarks by B. Byron Price

1:45 – 2:30 p.m.  Christina E. Burke
Curator of Native American and Non-Western Art
Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, Okla.
West by Southwest: Native Art From the Eugene B. Adkins Collection

2:30 – 2:55 p.m.  Break

2:55 – 3:40 p.m.  Marie Watkins
Assistant Professor, Department of Art,
Furman University, Greenville, S.C.
The Three Patrons of Serendip: Joseph Butler, Jr., William Holmes and
Phoebe Hearst, and the Early Career of Joseph Henry Sharp

3:40 – 4 p.m.  Closing Remarks
The University of Oklahoma School of Art and Art History

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

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