# HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

## *Art in the West* brings work of premier Western artists to High Desert Museum

### *Art available for sale in silent auction beginning July 27*

**Bend, OR —** The High Desert Museum will unveil an extraordinary collection of work by artists from across the West on July 27 in its annual *Art in the West* exhibition and silent auction. This year's juried, invitation-only exhibition features 76 works by 46 artists.

"The artwork featured in *Art in the West* showcases the inventive and varied ways in which artists respond to the landscapes, history, people and wildlife of the High Desert," said Andries Fourie, Museum curator of art and community engagement. "The exhibition gives Museum visitors the opportunity to view the rugged splendor and unique stories of the West through the eyes of its most creative residents."

The exhibition and silent auction opens on Friday, July 27 with a reception from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. The free event offers the public a first viewing of the exhibition as well as the chance to mingle with a number of the artists. Silent bidding will begin that evening, and there is also the opportunity to purchase artwork outright. The bidding culminates on August 25 at the 29th annual High Desert Rendezvous, the Museum's signature fundraising gala.

"We're extremely grateful for the regionally and nationally acclaimed artists who submitted pieces for jury consideration and are pleased to present this exceptional collection of works," said Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D., Museum executive director. "Each year, this exhibition showcases an inspiring range of artists' interpretations of the stories of the West, from reflections on culture to the uniqueness of the landscape."

This year's Curator's Choice Award was presented to Ben Pease from the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Nations in southeastern Montana for his piece "Keeper of the People." The Jury's Choice Award went to Utah-based artist Hadley Rampton for her piece "Vista." These works will be featured within the exhibit and available for bidding.

Opening bids for the art range from $100 to $5,000. In addition to the reception, bids for the artwork will also be taken throughout the exhibition in the Museum's store, Silver Sage Trading, or by phone until 2:00 pm on August 25 at 541-382-4754, ext. 365. Final bidding will occur that evening at the High Desert Rendezvous.

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Proceeds from the *Art in the West* auction and the High Desert Rendezvous help support the Museum's education programs, bringing science, art and history education to lifelong learners throughout the region.

A link to the gallery guide of the exhibit artwork is available on the Museum's website at highdesertmuseum.org/art-west-exhibit. The gallery guide is also available for purchase in the Museum store. For more information and to RSVP for the *Art in the West* reception, visit highdesertmuseum.org/art-in-west.

*Art in the West* is made possible by First Interstate Bank and with support from Central Oregon Visitors Association and Sunriver Resort.

Learn more about and register for the High Desert Rendezvous at highdesertmuseum.org/hdr.


ABOUT THE MUSEUM:
THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM opened in 1982 and brings regional wildlife, culture, art and natural resources together to promote an understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of North America's high desert country. The Museum uses indoor and outdoor exhibits, wildlife in natural habitats, and living history demonstrations to help people discover and appreciate the high desert environment. The Museum is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian Affiliate.

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