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“Artist at Work” Legacy Museum Book Signing at Poisoned Pen

Curator Bonnie Adams discusses Artist Kenneth M. Freeman’s life

The book contains images of oil paintings and sculptures that feature cowboys and cowgirls, rodeo heroes, Native American elders & children, mountain men, Western landscapes, and Buffalo Soldiers.

Keywords: art, exhibition, museum, western art, cowboy, rodeo, fine art, Booth Museum, Smithsonian, Artist at Work, museum book, Poisoned Pen, Scottsdale, Chicago, American Academy of Art

Scottsdale, AZ – The Poisoned Pen usually hosts mystery novelists but they eagerly agreed to hold a book signing for the Kenneth M. Freeman Legacy – ‘Artist at Work’ museum book on Thursday March 4, 2010 at 7 p.m. during the weekly Scottsdale ArtWalk. Legacy curator Bonnie Adams will be hand to share stories about the artist Kenneth M. Freeman and sign copies of the book.

“The museum book is a piece of artwork in itself,” said Bonnie Adams, curator of the Kenneth M. Freeman Legacy. “The cover design in cobalt blue features Ken’s brush strokes from the master work ‘Impending Decision’ and the metallic copper paint brings Arizona into the book design. The images have a depth of color and richness of content that will quickly make it your favorite art book.”

‘Artist at Work’ is based on the museum exhibition currently showing at The Booth Western Art Museum, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, in Cartersville, Georgia (metro Atlanta). The book contains beautiful reproductions of Freeman’s work as well as touching life stories told by those who knew him best. The book was printed in Phoenix, AZ by Heritage Graphics and has been entered into numerous national and international printing competitions.

Lorri Amsden, Poisoned Pen special events coordinator, says they felt the museum book would be perfect during the Scottsdale ArtWalk.

"We will have not only the museum book 'Artist at Work' in the bookstore, but we will also have several of Ken Freeman's paintings so that our guests can see his old European masters' technique," said Amsden. "It will bring art and literature together for an ArtWalk evening."

Adams explains, "Ken painted each work three times. First he sketched on the canvas or board with pencil and then did a full value single color, burnt umber, painting where he worked out all the details. When the burnt umber was dry, he laid down the color. This was the style of the old masters and members of the press dubbed Ken Freeman The Rembrandt of the Rodeo."

A Kiowa poet once remarked that the American West is a place that has to be seen to be believed, and it may have to be believed in order to be seen. Kenneth M. Freeman had the talent to draw, paint and sculpt the West as he had seen and experienced it. His unique combination of light and depth of color, together with rich cultural heritage, has left us with a body of work that connect with the soul and spirit of the American West.

Recent Kenneth M. Freeman Awards of Excellence:

- Lifetime Achievement Award from Western Artists of America
- Western Heritage Award from Parada del Sol
- Cowboy Spirit Award from the National Festival of the West
- Special Award from the World's Oldest Rodeo – Prescott, AZ

Kenneth M. Freeman Legacy Museum Exhibition Schedule:

These two collections are traveling retrospectives of the late Kenneth M. Freeman (1935 - 2008) who had a prolific career as both an illustrator and fine artist, primarily portraying the American West. Artist at Work and Portraits of the West presents a cross-section of Freeman's lifetime body of work and range of mediums.

- *Artist at Work: The Kenneth M. Freeman Legacy*
Museum exhibition of 50 works by Kenneth M. Freeman
The Booth Western Art Museum, Cartersville, GA
January 2010 - May 2010 - www.BoothMuseum.org
The Booth Museum is a Smithsonian affiliate museum

- *Portraits of the West - The Kenneth M. Freeman Legacy*
Premiere exhibition of 65 works by Kenneth M. Freeman
The Phippen Museum, Prescott, AZ
June 26 - October 24, 2010 - www.PhippenArtMuseum.org

About Kenneth M. Freeman

Works of Kenneth M. Freeman are in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Museum, Library of Congress, American Art Academy, and Booth Museum as well as distinguished private collections. Accolades include winning competitions at the San Diego Museum of Art, the Hubbard Museum of Art, the Illinois State Fair, the Salmagundi Show in New York City, the Union League Club of Chicago, being chosen five times as artist for the Parada Del Sol Rodeo in Scottsdale, AZ and having a painting selected for the 1988 Prescott Centennial Rodeo. He was an illustrator for authors like Louis L'Amour.

Ken was known affectionately as "Rembrandt of the Rodeo" by members of the press. First Lady Barbara Bush, impressed with Ken Freeman's southwestern art, invited him to show at the Smithsonian Institute in conjunction with the Native American Museum Extravaganza. Ken also had a one man show in 2007 in Milan, Italy at Fondazione Metropolitan. www.KennethMFreeman.com

For artist Kenneth M. Freeman, the cowboy hat and boots was not a gimmick or shtick. Neither was his Arizona attitude. Ken Freeman may have grown up in a traditional Jewish home in Chicago, Illinois but make no mistake ... he was a cowboy.

MEDIA ALERT

Who: Bonnie Adams, Curator of the Kenneth M. Freeman Legacy and the artwork of Ken Freeman

What: Book Signing of 'Artist at Work' – The Museum Book of Kenneth M. Freeman

Where: The Poisoned Pen, 4014 N Goldwater Blvd., Suite 101, Scottsdale, AZ 85251-4344

Telephone: (888)560-9919 or (480)947-2974 Email: sales@poisonedpen.com

When: Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 7 PM

Details: The event is free. Customers are encouraged to reserve their book and get an early number for the book signing event. 'Artist at Work' is a limited first edition book and is \$39.95.

About Scottsdale's ArtWalk

Downtown Scottsdale is one of very few areas in the greater Phoenix area that lends itself to walking around. The Scottsdale Gallery Association exploits that aspect in the best possible way--with Scottsdale ArtWalk. Every Thursday night, every night of the year (except Thanksgiving), for the past 30 years, many of the more than 100 art galleries in downtown Scottsdale have opened their doors to art lovers, art lover wannabes and people watchers during Scottsdale ArtWalk. From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Thursday evening, it's a great way to get out for a couple of hours and get to know artists and galleries.

MEDIA RESOURCES:

HD Digital B-Roll footage is available of the Artist at Work exhibition at the Booth Museum. You can preview the video footage at <http://www.KennethMFreeman.com/press.htm>

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES:

1. Booth Museum Installation of Artist at Work (TIF 5.5MB)

<http://www.KennethMFreeman.com/press/boothinstallation.tif>

2. Impending Decision – Freeman's most famous painting (JPG 3.8 MB)

<http://www.KennethMFreeman.com/press/ImpendingDecision.jpg>

3. Tough Draw – the official image of the exhibition (JPG 2.7 MB)

<http://www.KennethMFreeman.com/press/ToughDraw.jpg>

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Documents and/or Photos available for this release:

Impending Decision by artist, Kenneth M. Freeman. Artist at Work museum book signing at Poisoned Pen, Scottsdale AZ.

To view supporting documents and/or photos, go to www.enr-corp.com/pressroom and enter Release ID: 242241