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Two Phoenix Firms Join Together to Strengthen Protection for Collectors of Fine Art Worldwide

Legacy of Legendary Western Artist Kenneth M. Freeman protected by Fine Art Registry Patented Identification System

Phoenix, AZ – As Bonnie Adams, curator of the artistic legacy of her late husband, legendary Western artist Kenneth M. Freeman, launches the traveling Kenneth M. Freeman Legacy Exhibition: Artist at Work, currently at the Booth Western Art Museum in Atlanta, she decided to protect his originals and limited edition prints using the Fine Art Registry patented, secure, tagging and registration system. Both Kenneth M. Freeman Legacy and Fine Art Registry are located in the Phoenix Metro area.

Born in 1935 in Chicago, Ken Freeman's formative years were marked by two major passions: art and cowboys. He won numerous art scholarships and went on to study classical painting at the American Academy of Art. His major influences were Rembrandt, Rubens and John Singer Sargent. His studies were followed by a successful 20-year career as an illustrator. In the late 1970s he moved to Scottsdale to fulfill his life dreams of becoming a full time fine artist and a cowboy – he lived the life and painted the life he was living. Some of his best known art graces the covers of books by Western authors including Louis L'Amour and Will James. He created original work for Hamilton Collectibles, a beautiful ten-plate series entitled Proud Indian Families. Many of his original paintings have been reproduced as limited edition prints. He became known affectionately by the media as the "Rembrandt of the Rodeo" and often referred to himself as a "Jewish Cowboy."

"Ken's old masters' technique was very time consuming but the outcome is extraordinary. It is the only way to achieve the depth of colors and warm layers of content that will pass the test of time," says Edward Holmes, president of Western Artists of America whose organization presented Adams with Freeman's Lifetime Achievement Award at the premier of the traveling exhibit at the The Booth Western Art Museum, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, in Atlanta, on January 16th, 2010.

The Artist at Work exhibition, with its centerpiece, a recreation of Ken Freeman's studio continues at the Booth Western Art Museum until May 22, 2010. Next, the Freeman Legacy Portraits of the West exhibition opens in Prescott, AZ on June 24th 2010. Other venues and dates for the traveling exhibition are still being finalized.

Prior to the opening of the exhibition at the Booth, Bonnie Adams decided to adopt the Fine Art Registry (FAR) patented system which combines a tamper-evident, unforgeable, high tech tag and a corresponding, full record in a secure database of all the data required by the Getty Object ID to identify art objects and more.

"When I made the decision to start touring Ken Freeman's original artworks to museums and other venues, I felt I had no real control over their fate," Adams explains. "An artwork could go missing without any means to find or claim it back. With plans to send the artwork all over the United States and eventually to Europe, I had to start protecting my investment."

"FAR offers the artist and the collector an invaluable system of registering, archiving, and sorting their precious items," continues Bonnie. "I wanted a system that I could work with to help me organize and document my collection. FAR offers just that. It is my responsibility as the Curator of this important collection to protect and promote the artwork. FAR offers solutions to both these concerns. With the secure database to archive and record all the artwork and collectables and a sales site to promote and sell from and with access to legal resources experienced in Art Fraud, FAR offers the artist and collector a Peace of Mind – the ultimate benefit."

"I plan to tag and register all of Ken's original works of art, (this includes the paintings, illustrations, drawings, sketches, unfinished pieces, bronzes; all things he created), all the reproductions that the Kenneth M Freeman Legacy will release, all the artifacts that Ken used as reference for his artwork. I also plan to tag and register all of my own artwork and personal collections," says Bonnie Adams.

ABOUT THE KENNETH M. FREEMAN LEGACY

Works of Kenneth M. Freeman (1935 - 2008) 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 Louis L'Amour and other Western authors. 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

ABOUT FINE ART REGISTRY:

Fine Art Registry® is today's only high tech solution to the age old problems that have existed in the art world since before the Ancient Greeks: How to establish provenance, prove authenticity and ownership, prevent forgery and fakery, deter theft and, basically, make it possible to create, buy and sell works of art with the security of knowing that they are what they claim to be. For more information please see the Fine Art Registry Web site www.fineartregistry.com

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Documents and/or Photos available for this release:

Kenneth M. Freeman Legacy: Artist at Work exhibition, currently at the Booth Western Art Museum, Atlanta, GA. The art exhibited is registered with Fine Art Registry offering protection from fraud.

To view supporting documents and/or photos, go to www.enr-corp.com/pressroom and enter Release ID: 245195