

# HAPPY TRAILS to you

## Long-time friend of CAA, Ruth Kaspar, retires

For Ruth Kaspar, art has always been an essential part of life. Born and raised in the Midwest, her parents instilled in her a deep appreciation for art. From a young age, she remembers being surrounded by culture.

**"I had everything except the talent to be an artist," joked Kaspar.**

As an adult, Kaspar continued to incorporate art into her existence. When she and her then-husband moved to Phoenix in 1961, he became a member of Phoenix Art Museum's Men's Arts Council. Kaspar also quickly became involved in the volunteer community, working on various fundraisers and serving as the executive director for the Scottsdale Artists School. Over the years, she also raised her three children and pursued her MBA from Arizona State University.

Her love affair with Western American art began when she entered the docent program at Phoenix Art Museum.

"I was asked to do a school tour of the CAA Exhibition, to which I responded that I knew very little about Western American art but would do a quick study and should be fine with third graders," remembered Kaspar. "I asked Thelma Kieckhefer, who was a friend, for help and she overloaded me with her opinions, books, CAA tales and an in-depth tour of her own collection."

This was the beginning of a close relationship between the two women. Kieckhefer became Kaspar's mentor, dearest friend and teacher. The two traveled to artists' studios and shows all over the west.

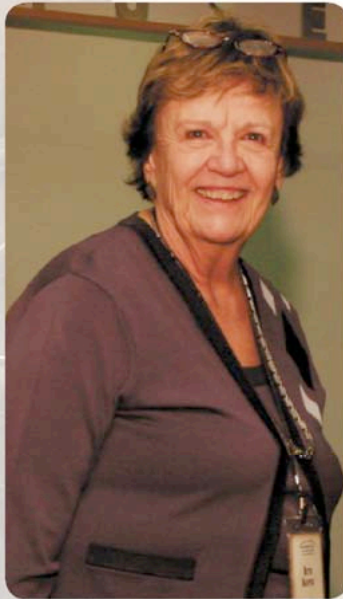
"Thelma had a passion for Western American art and passed that passion to me," said Kaspar.

This year, Kaspar is retiring from her CAA Sale duties. In total, she worked on 29 CAA Sales. Her role was never defined, but she was always willing to do all that she could

for the event and help the chairmen in any capacity. One thing that remained consistent was her responsibility for the registration process for the sale weekend.

Over the decades, her most cherished memories are of the close relationships she forged with members of the CAA and their families. "You really get to know them inside and out."

As Kaspar moves on, her plans for the future are simple. "I'll keep on traveling and being involved at the Museum," she said. "I'll do whatever I can each day at a time."



Ruth Kaspar at the CAA Sale registration desk

**"Ruth was so diligent and was always there to help in any way she could," said David Halbach. "Her devotion to the CAA has been so strong, and she is a wonderful person."**

# CA NEWS

## Prix de West Featured CAA Painting, Sculpture

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City held its prestigious invitational art exhibit in June. The exhibit featured nearly 300 paintings and sculptures by contemporary Western artists from around the nation. Works range from historical pieces to more contemporary and impressionist works of art, including landscapes, wildlife and illustrative scenes. The event also included art seminars, receptions and an awards banquet. The exhibit remains on display through Sept. 10.

The following members of the Cowboy Artists of America participated in this year's Prix de West Invitational:

Harley Brown	John Coleman
Loren Entz	Bruce Greene
Martin Grelle	Oreland C. Joe, Sr.
Mehl Lawson	Herb Mignery
John Moyers	Bill Nebeker
Jim C. Norton	Bill Owen
R.S. Riddick	



this fundraising event for the Museum, meticulously plans each detail, from Sale night to the awards dinner.

"If it weren't for the hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours by the Men's Arts Council members, the Sale would not be possible," said Jerry Smith, Associate Curator of American Art.

The Sale & Exhibition is held in the Steele Gallery. Four weeks prior to the event, workers build and paint the specially-configured walls that will showcase the never-before-seen works by members of the CAA. Installation of the art follows, with the paintings hung and sculptures placed and prepared for their unveiling to the public. Museum staff works tirelessly to ensure every detail is correct so patrons can enjoy the art.

While the CAA Exhibition is a major draw to the museum in the fall, visitors to this event also have access to the Western Art Gallery directly upstairs with their general museum admission, except on Sale night. There, they can continue to feed their curiosity about the American West and their appreciation of its iconic art. Each year, 25,000 people enjoy the Exhibition, with many also paying a visit to the Western Art Gallery.

For more information on the Exhibition, visit <http://www.phxart.org/exhibitions/current.asp>.



## Phoenix Art Museum Prepares for CAA Sale, Exhibition

Phoenix Art Museum is no stranger to major exhibitions. From masters like Monet, Picasso, Frida Kahlo and Georgia O'Keeffe to Curves of Steel: Streamlined Automobile Design, Phoenix Art Museum knows how to set the stage so the art can speak for itself.

It's no different with the Cowboy Artists of America Exhibition, which follows the annual Sale each October. Preparations for this renowned event begin a full year in advance, immediately following the prior year's affair. Men's Arts Council, which organizes

## JUST THE TICKET

### CAA Blazes a Trail with Online Sales

Straightforward. Hardworking. Trustworthy. Obliging. We could be describing the qualities of the beloved American cowboy, but these same traits also apply to the new online tickets sales on [www.caashow.org](http://www.caashow.org). New this year, attendees can purchase Sale weekend tickets online for \$275 and Sale night tickets for \$225. There is a \$15 discount applied to all tickets purchased online.



### Straightforward

Online ticket ordering has been streamlined and improved. Simply visit [www.caashow.org](http://www.caashow.org), select the tickets you want to purchase, and you're on your way. You will be guided through the clear-cut ordering process, which includes your name, email address, shipping address and payment information. Once the transaction is complete, you will be sent to an order confirmation page, which you can print for your records.

### Hardworking

Let [www.caashow.org](http://www.caashow.org) do all the work for you. You can purchase tickets online on your own time, making it the most convenient way to make the transaction. You don't have to worry about calling during office hours to buy your tickets or mailing in a check on time.

### Trustworthy

When you order your tickets at [www.caashow.org](http://www.caashow.org), you don't have to worry about security.

Your credit card information is encrypted during the transaction, which protects you and your information. In addition, your credit card information is not stored in the CAA files, so it can never be compromised.

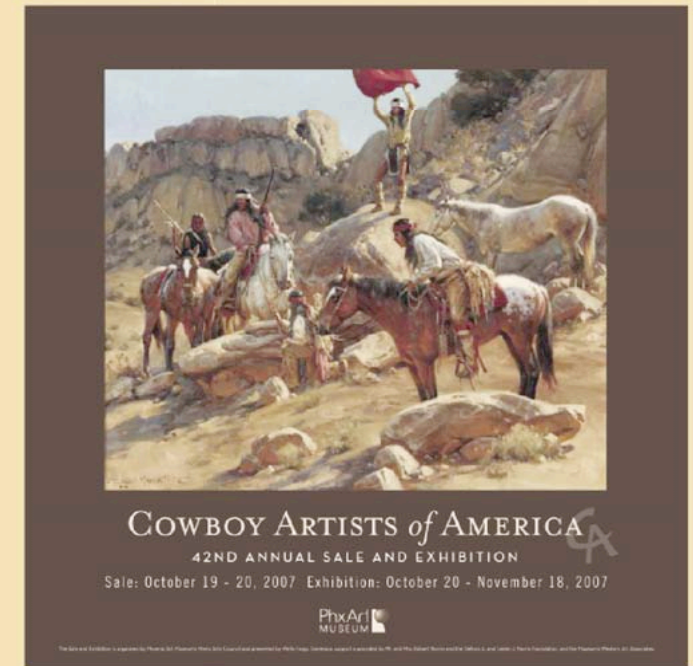
### Obliging

Like any hospitable cowboy, we want to make sure you have everything you need to enjoy yourself at the CAA Sale. That's why this year we have added additional information for our guests on the site. Visit [www.caashow.org](http://www.caashow.org) to learn more about Phoenix weather, what to wear during the Sale weekend, where to eat while you're here and answers to other frequently asked questions.

Be sure to visit [www.caashow.org](http://www.caashow.org) today to order tickets and find out how to make your October stay in Phoenix top-notch.

### Reserve Your Official CAA Sale & Exhibition Poster Now!

The oil painting Sentinel Signal by Gary Niblett is featured on the 42nd Annual CAA Sale & Exhibition poster. Call Kelly Whitton at (602) 307-2007 to reserve your poster today.



### Keeping Current

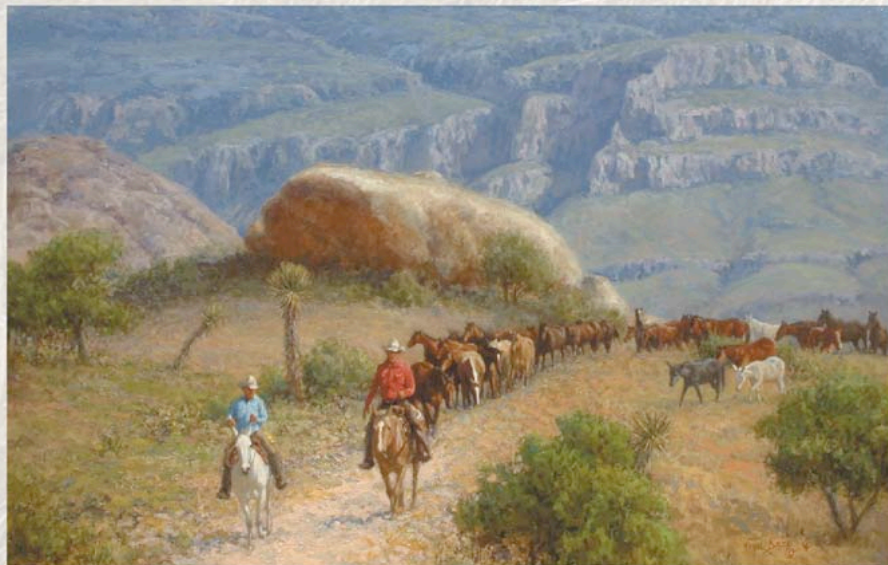
If you have a change of address or know someone who would like to be added to the mailing list, call Kelly Whitton at (602) 307-2007.

# first glance

Enjoy this preview of some of the fine art you will see at the 42nd Annual Cowboy Artists of America Sale & Exhibition this October. For tickets and event information, call Kelly Whitton at (602) 307-2007 or visit [www.caashow.org](http://www.caashow.org).



*Old Ways*, Harley Brown, 2007. Charcoal and conte on museum board, 50" x 36". Courtesy of the artist.



*Mountain Mounts*, Wayne Baize, 2007. Oil on canvas, 24" x 30". Courtesy of the artist.

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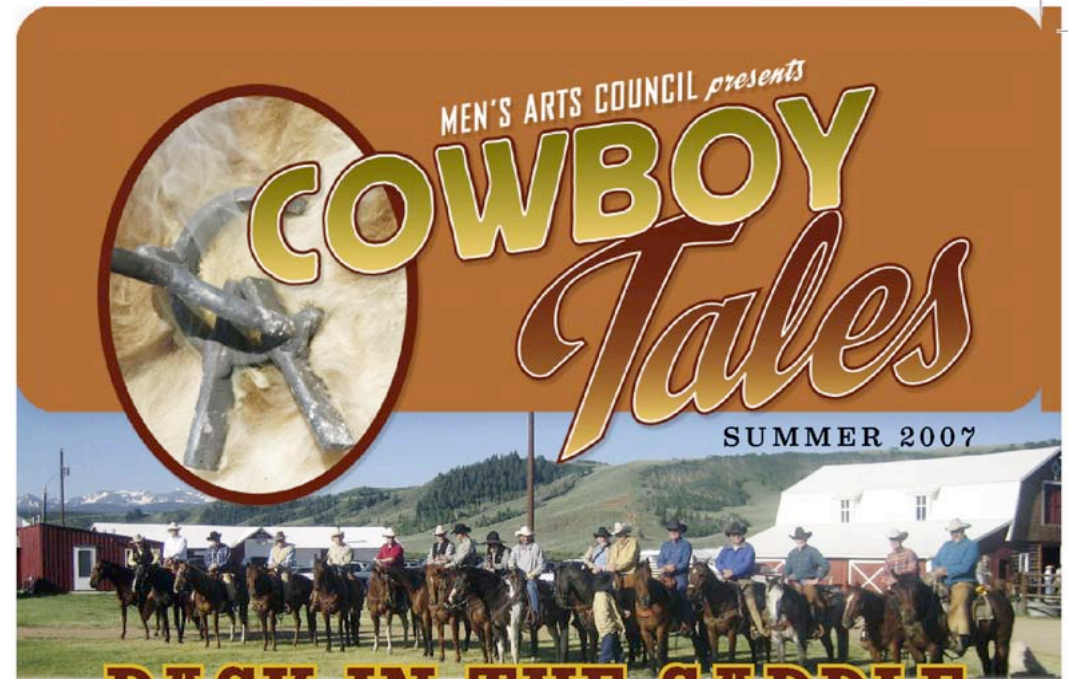


**Men's Arts Council**

1625 North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-1685  
[www.caashow.org](http://www.caashow.org)



*Dependence on Foreign Oil*, Fred Fellows, 2007. Oil on canvas, 30" x 70". Courtesy of the artist.



## BACK IN THE SADDLE

Annual Trail Ride Bonds CAA Members, Guests

The Cowboy Artists of America held its trail ride at the Diamond Tail Ranch in June, marking the fourth time the CAA has celebrated its annual gathering at this location in the picturesque mountains of northern Colorado.

CAA Honorary member Ray Duncan is the owner of the Diamond Tail and is a long-time supporter of the CAA. The entire Duncan family is involved with hosting the trail ride. Son Mike coordinated many of the activities with ranch manager Scott Butcher. Sally Duncan hosted the ladies' dinner in Steamboat Springs.

"Ray and Sally's support and enthusiasm for the Cowboy Artists of America has been manifested in so many ways," said CAA President Wayne Baize. "We cherish and appreciate their friendship."

"It is always a pleasurable experience at the Diamond Tail," added CAA member Herb Mignery. "It is more meaningful when the host and hostess are deeply interested and involved in Western art, like Ray and Sally are."

In fact, the Duncans are co-owners of the Claggett Rey Gallery with Honorary CA member Bill Rey. The gallery, located in Vail, Colo., represents many CAA members.

The tradition of the trail ride dates back to the very beginnings of the CAA. In fact, the trail ride is such an important part of the soul of the CAA that the founding members included it in the original bylaws as one of two required events, the other being the annual exhibition of new artwork. The trail ride is a

time for reconnecting and relaxation for the artists. The CAA also holds one of its two annual business meetings at the host ranch.

Twenty-one Active CAA members and Emeritus member Grant Speed attended the trail ride. Honorary CA members in attendance were Ray Duncan, Bill Rey, Don Hedgpeth and Steve Todd. A few additional guests included the current and incoming chairmen for the CAA Sale & Exhibition, Kirk Thompson and Tom Ryan. Jody Beeler, son of CAA Founder Joe Beeler, was also a guest on the ride.

"This is an opportunity for the CAA members to express themselves both as cowboys and cowboy artists, and it is an honor to be invited to attend as a guest," said Thompson, chairman of the 42nd Annual CAA Sale & Exhibition.



From left: (1st row) Bruce Green, Harley Brown, Ron Riddick, Herb Mignery, Dave Powell, Orland Joe, John Moyers, Mehl Lawson; (2nd row) Gary Niblett, John Coleman, David Halbach, Steve Todd, T. D. Kelsey, Jim C. Norton; (3rd row) Loren Entz, Bill Nebeker, Grant Speed, Dr. Red Duke, Fred Fellows, Bill Owen, Clark Kelly Price, Gary Carter, Don Crowley.

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[cowboyartistsofamerica.com](http://cowboyartistsofamerica.com)