

Q&A with Bill Nebeker

CAA veteran Bill Nebeker takes his place as 2008 president

Incoming CAA President Bill Nebeker has always been in tune with the impressive surroundings of the American West. As a young man, Nebeker worked for the U.S. Forest Service surveying mountain roads and trails. Little did he know then that his path would take him to lead the prestigious Cowboy Artists of America.

Inspired by CAA co-founder George Phippen, Bill became a sculptor in 1965 and eventually a CAA member in 1978. This will be his third time serving as CAA president. He and his wife, Merry, live and work in Prescott, Ariz., where he was raised.



Q: How did George Phippen inspire you to become an artist?

A: In the spring of 1964, my parents took Merry and me to George Phippen's art show in Prescott, and I saw my first Phippen bronze sculpture. At that very moment, I had an epiphany, and knew I had to learn how to sculpt characters of the American West. They had a sense of integrity, authenticity, humor and movement that I was fascinated by.

Q: You have created several public monuments in Arizona. Which one are you most proud of?

A: That is a difficult choice for me to make. I have a real fondness and affinity for each of them for different reasons. *Early Prescott Settlers* is special to me because it stands in the home town where I grew up and which I love, and it also was the first monument I sculpted.

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Q: How did you go from being a foundryman to a Cowboy Artists of America member?

A: During the years I worked at the Phippen's Bear Paw Bronze Works, I met and worked on the clay originals of many now-famous sculptors. I was fortunate to become friends with Frank Polk, Bill Owen and Joe Beeler. As I made molds and waxes of their originals, and then chased and did the patinas on their bronzes, they were kind enough to look over my clays and give me advice and encouragement. At the CAA Sale in 1978, I was sponsored and voted in as a member of the group.

Q: Looking ahead, what is your vision for the 43rd Annual Cowboy Artists of America Sale & Exhibition?

A: I believe it will be the biggest and best ever presented. I am always overwhelmed with awe when I walk into Phoenix Art Museum a few days before the Sale because I can't imagine that any array of paintings and sculptures could be more spectacular than the previous year's, but it always is! Another exciting surprise in 2008 will be seeing for the first time the amazing paintings of our newest member, Tim Cox.

Come to Phoenix Oct. 17-18, 2008, and join the CAA family, friends and collectors for a great show.

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Ahead of the Storm, Fred Fellows, 2007. Oil on linen, 24" X 36". Courtesy of the artist.



Steady She Goes

CAA Sale on par with impressive \$2.5 million gross



The 22 active Cowboy Artists of America members tipped their hats to yet another successful Sale Weekend. The 42nd Annual Cowboy Artists of America Sale, which took place at Phoenix Art Museum Friday, Oct. 19, boasted 134 works of art ranging from bronze sculptures to oil paintings and charcoal drawings.

Western American art aficionados who missed the Sale had the opportunity to admire the range of images of the American West during the exhibition of the works, which opened to the public on Oct. 20 and remained on view through Nov. 18.

The annual Sale, organized by Phoenix Art Museum's Men's Arts Council (MAC), grossed more than \$2.5 million. A portion of the sales benefits Phoenix Art Museum and its Western Art Endowment Fund. These monies go toward acquisitions to expand the Museum's Western American art collection.

Thank you to all who attended the Sale! CAA, MAC and Phoenix Art Museum are grateful for your continued support.

Special Thanks

Hugh and Betty Libby
for allowing us to photograph
Gary Niblett's painting
Sentinel Signal for use as the
2007 Sale poster
Docents
for the informative Museum tours
Men's Arts Council Volunteers

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And the Winner is . . .

CAA MEMBERS' WORKS HONORED AT SALE

42nd Annual Sale & Exhibition Award Winners



CAA Award — Artists' Choice
Award for best overall exhibition, Fred Fellows



Western Art Associates' Kieckhefer Award for Best in Show
T.D. Kelsey, *Hair Triggered*



Gold — Oil
John Moyers, *Once We Were Kings*



Ray Swanson Memorial Award
Award for work of art that best communicates a moment in time and captures the emotion of that moment
Bruce Greene, *When Freedom Isn't Free*



Silver — Oil
Bill Owen, *Night Life*



Silver — Sculpture
John Coleman, *Winds of Change*



Gold — Sculpture
T.D. Kelsey, *Hair Triggered*



Gold — Water Soluble
David Halbach, *Early Graffiti*



Gold — Drawing and Other Media
Harley Brown, *Old Ways*



Silver — Drawing and Other Media
Loren Entz, *Colt Studies*



Silver — Water Soluble
John Moyers, *Apache*

Phoenix Art Museum's Western American Art Collection Grows

Men's Arts Council Fund Acquires New Work

Phoenix Art Museum is proud to add Tony Foster's depiction of the Grand Canyon, *From Point Sublime Looking E.S.E.*, to its permanent collection.

Men's Arts Council's Western American Endowment Fund purchased this large-scale painting, which measures six feet wide. It is the latest painting to join the Museum's Western American art collection. Foster created this watercolor on site during a visit to the Grand Canyon. It is part of a series entitled "Searching for a Bigger Subject," which explores the major subjects of the Grand Canyon, Mt. Everest, the Amazon and the sea.

"What sets Foster apart from his Victorian [traveling artist] counterparts is the scale

in which he often works – the painting at the Museum is his largest yet, measuring 3 feet tall and 6 feet wide," said Jerry Smith, Associate Curator of American Art for Phoenix Art Museum. "It is a remarkable achievement given the unforgiving medium of watercolor."

Foster's work is in good company in the Museum's Western American art collection, which consists of nearly 900 works of art that portray the American West. The collection also boasts works by many Cowboy Artists of America members, including Howard Terpning, Robert Lougheed, Fritz White, Joe Beeler, Herb Mignery, John Coleman, Bill Nebeker and Oreland Joe.

CA NEWS

Portrait Eases Family's, Community's Heartache

When five-year-old Brielle Boisvert was killed accidentally during the Tucson Rodeo Parade earlier this year, the entire community was stricken by the tragedy. Tucson resident and CA member Harley Brown was deeply touched by the loss when he spoke about it with fellow CA member Fred Fellows and his wife Deborah during a visit.

Motivated to do anything he could to help the grieving family, Brown decided to paint a portrait of Brielle. While Brown does not personally know the Boisvert family, he and the Fellows family shared in their grief with the community. "I can tell you that Deborah and Fred are the motivation behind this painting," said Brown. "Their heartfelt words inspired me to get involved with her portrait."

While Brielle's grandmother was brought to tears when she first previewed the portrait, the rest of her family saw it for the first time at the 92nd Annual Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo.

Fellows agrees that the portrait's likeness to Brielle is powerful and touching, and he was also moved by his friend and fellow CA's generosity. "Harley is the best," he concluded.



Harley Brown's portrait of Brielle Boisvert

New 2008 CAA Officers Inaugurated

Bill Nebeker is set to succeed Wayne Baize as CAA president in 2008. Nebeker will lead CAA during its 43rd year. Joining Nebeker are John Coleman as vice president and Wayne Baize, Gary Niblett and R. S. Riddick as directors.

Keeping Current

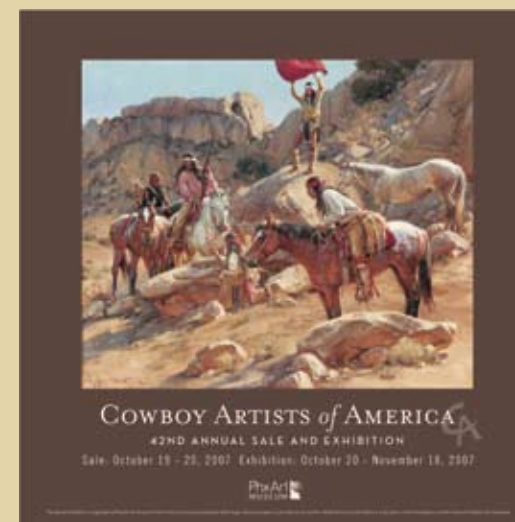
If you have a change of address or know someone who would like to be added to the Cowboy Artists mailing list, call Kelly Whitton at (602) 307-2007.

Save the Date

Planning already has begun for the 43rd Annual Cowboy Artists of America Sale & Exhibition. Mark your calendar for the Sale on Oct. 17, 2008, with the Exhibition starting Oct. 18, 2008.

Posters Still Available

It's not too late to purchase a 2007 CAA Sale poster. To place your order, call Kelly Whitton at (602) 307-2007.



High Noon Western Americana January 25 - 27, 2008

Visit the Men's Arts Council booth at High Noon Western Americana for more information on the 2008 CAA Sale, 2007 catalogs and both past and present posters. Visit www.highnoon.com for more information.