

99 Artists Participating In 2005 Prix de West

A total of 99 artists will be presenting their work at the 2005 Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition and Sale, to be held June 10-11 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. This represents a record number of artists. More than 300 works of art are expected to be in the exhibition. The show continues through September 11.

Five of the artists will be showing their work for the first time at Prix de West. They are Douglas Allen, Keith Christie, John Coleman, George Hallmark and Robert Peters.

The show began in 1973, under the auspices of the National Academy of Western Art. The first show drew 34 artists with Clark Hulings, a Santa Fe, New Mexico artist, winning the first Prix de West Purchase Award.

As the Prix de West marks its 32nd year, the Museum will be celebrating its golden anniversary, a milestone well worth observing in the life of any institution.

Originally, the show was founded to serve as a yardstick for judging the quality art of the past and setting quality standards for the future. The Academy's mission was to transmit the nation's Western heritage through fine art.

In 1995, the name was changed to the Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition and Sale, expanding the number of participating artists and adding more art-related seminars to the educational program on the opening weekend.

The artists bring a unique set of artistic and cultural influences and background to their paintings, drawings and sculptures. Many began their careers in commercial illustration and then were drawn to the field of fine art. Others saw art as an avocation and first pursued careers in law, engineering, architecture, teaching and computer programming. Some were

inspired by parents who were artists, planting the seed for an artistic career almost in the cradle.

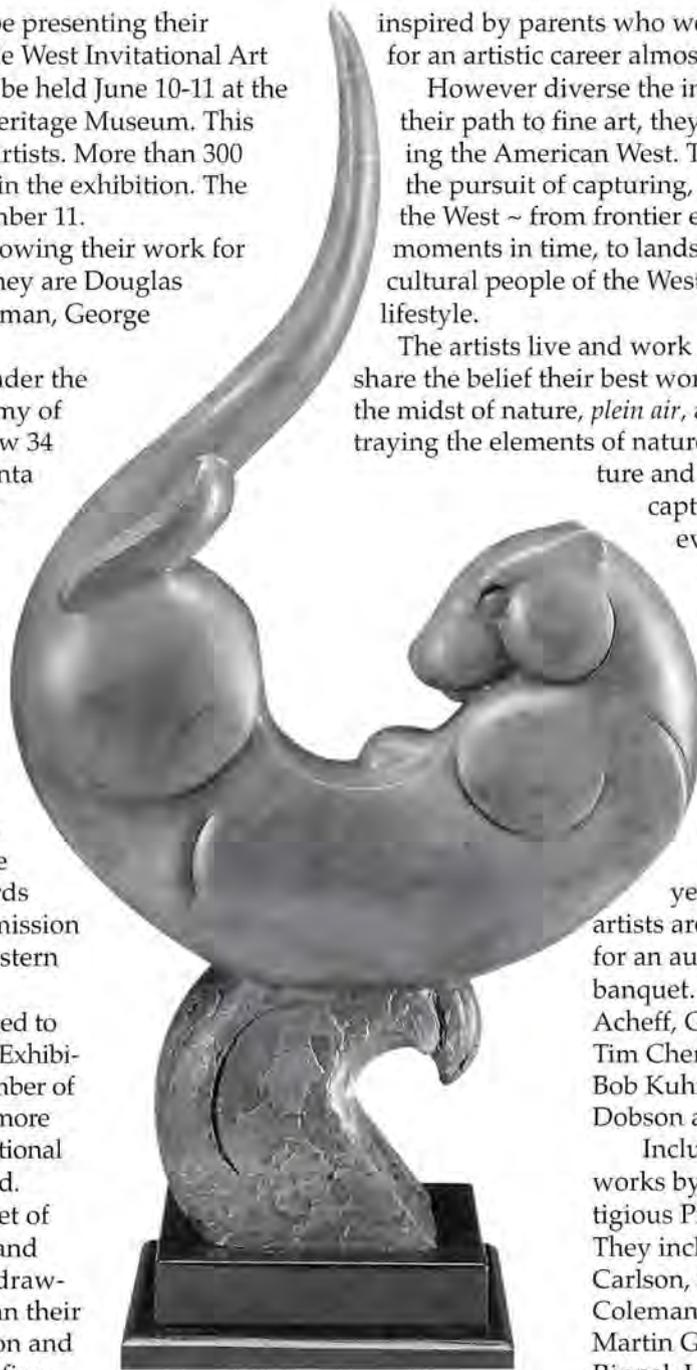
However diverse the influences, however circuitous their path to fine art, they all share a love of portraying the American West. They have spent their lives in the pursuit of capturing, for the viewer, the culture of the West ~ from frontier experiences and historical moments in time, to landscapes, wildlife, the multi-cultural people of the West, and always, the cowboy lifestyle.

The artists live and work in nature's theater. Most share the belief their best works are inspired by being in the midst of nature, *plein air*, as they call it. Many are portraying the elements of nature ~ light, shadow, color, texture and value ~ and they strive to capture the mood, power and ever-changing drama of nature.

Their impressive works reveal the beauty and grace they portray in paintings and sculpture. Their work is eloquent and inspiring. These are works of art that please the eye and delight the soul.

For the third consecutive year, 10 of the Prix de West artists are contributing works of art for an auction during the awards banquet. Those artists include William Acheff, Gerald Balciar, Joseph Bohler, Tim Cherry, Tim Cox, Doug Hyde, Bob Kuhn, Michael Stack, Patricia Dobson and Luke Frazier.

Included in the exhibition will be works by 15 past winners of the prestigious Prix de West Purchase Award. They include Gerald Balciar, George Carlson, Scott L. Christensen, Michael Coleman, Tim Cox, Richard Greeves, Martin Grelle, Bob Kuhn, Morris Rippel, Lowell Ellsworth Smith, Tucker Smith, Morgan Weistling, Jim Wilcox, Hollis Williford and William Acheff, the 2004 Prix de West Purchase Award winner. ❧



Otter Motion, Bronze, 20" High x 21" Long by Tim Cherry is among a large group of sculptures included in the 2005 Prix de West Invitational Exhibition.