



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT: Ken Freeman, Scottsdale's Adopted Son, Receives Cowboy Spirit Award

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY - WESTERN ACTORS

Who: Bonnie Adams, Curator of the Kenneth M. Freeman Legacy and actor James Drury (The Virginian)

What: Cowboy Spirit Award at the Festival of the West, awarded over the years to famous cowboys such as John Wayne.

Where: National Festival of the West held at West World, 7116 Becker Lane, Scottsdale, AZ 85260

When: Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 2 PM

Details: Cost for the Cowboy Spirit Award Ceremony is included in admission to Festival of the West. Adults, \$14; Seniors (60+), \$13; Children (12-5), \$4 and kids under 5 are free. Discounts for multi-day passes.

Why: Kenneth M. Freeman (1935-2008) has the only two paintings in the American Legacy Collection from Arizona that are hanging in the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Freeman began his career illustrating for Louis L'Amour. He was commissioned to paint the portrait of President Herbert Hoover and was invited by First Lady Barbara Bush to show at the Smithsonian Institutes in conjunction with the Native American Museum Extravaganza.

"Ken was an extraordinary artist," says Bonnie Adams, curator of the collection. "He was able to capture the spirit of the person he was painting. He saw their passion and brought it to the canvas. Ken never painted negative energy. His work incorporated beauty, made no political statements and showed pride, honor and tradition."

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>

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

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
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 The Festival of the West

Celebrating the history of the American West, the Festival of the West is in its 20th year. The four-day festival is an extravaganza of music, Western film and TV stars and chuck wagon grub. There is a shopper's expo selling all things Western, from jewelry to saddles to furniture. Family friendly events including the Buffalo Soldier encampment, log home showcase, and Mountain Men Rendezvous take place each day. Michael Martin Murphy is concert, Saturday, March 20. It is never too late to be a cowboy! For full schedule and prices visit www.FestivaloftheWest.com

Documents and/or Photos available for this release:

Kenneth M. Freeman (1935-2008) Rembrandt of the Rodeo, receives Festival of the West's Cowboy Spirit Award.

To view supporting documents and/or photos, go to www.enr-corp.com/pressroom and enter Release ID: 247129

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