

# SPRING ART

## IN THE SOUTHWEST

**TS DALE**  
sdaleartauktion.com  
12-13

ing this spring is the Scottsdale Art one of America's leading sales of art. Its lots encompass every genre, idscape and wildlife to figures and

highlight is a rare oil painting by Russell, *The Broken Rope* (estimate on-\$7 million). Completed in 1904, ment in this master's artistic devel- it depicts the fraught moment right ne collision of a cow and a cowboy. s also represented by an important



NICOLAI FECHIN (1881-1955), *Carmelita*, n.d., oil on canvas, 24 x 20 in., estimate \$300,000-\$500,000

bronze, *A Bronc Twister*, which carries an estimate of \$200,000-\$300,000.

Among the other historical greats on offer are Frederic Remington, J.H. Sharp, E.I. Couse, Walter Ufer, Maynard Dixon, William R. Leigh, and Winold Reiss. Particularly impressive is the portrait by Nicolai Fechin illustrated here.

As usual, the auction has a strong group of works by G. Harvey and members of the Cowboy Artists of America, and the living masters include Mark Maggiori, Logan Hagege, and Kyle Polzin.

## L BLAZING TRAILS

**COTT, ARIZONA**  
nartistsofthewest.org  
1-13 June 23

ppen Museum of Western Art will :to *Dreamweavers*, the 54th National in of the nonprofit organization Artists of the West (WAOW). On ll be 144 paintings, drawings, and as created by its Master, Signature, ociate members, who live in the U.S., and Australia and work in oil, pastel, or, graphite, and bronze. Illustrated he painting *Vermillion Escarpment*, e New Mexico landscapist Jan Marie y describes as "an unspoiled slick a fantasy world of pale nooks, cool , and sunlit rock - a dream world for 'of landscapes."

March 9, the reception and awards will feature a keynote presentation Bommersbach, author of *Helldrillers 'blazers: The Real Women of the Wild* along the other educational programs



JAN MARIE DE LIPSEY (b. 1953), *Vermillion Escarpment*, 2023, oil on panel, 30 x 40 in.

on WAOW's schedule are a gallery talk by Master Emerita member Mary Ann Cherry, a painting demonstration by awards judge Jessica Garrett Lawrence, and a sculpture demo by Syri Hall, who will then bring participants to her foundry nearby.

## MODERN MASTER, OLD NEVADA

**RENO, NEVADA**  
nevadaart.org  
March 2-July 28

The Nevada Museum of Art is set to open *Sagebrush and Solitude: Maynard Dixon in Nevada*, the first comprehensive exhibition documenting his visits to the Silver State. From 1901 through 1939, Dixon made several trips from his San Francisco home to depict the striking landscapes of the Great Basin and Sierra Nevada region. On view will be nearly 150 paintings and drawings, many rarely or never seen before.

From the first sketching trip taken with fellow artist Edward Borein in 1901, Dixon captured the beauty of Nevada's open spaces, which were fast being transformed by external forces. Among his favorite subjects were old homesteads, wild horses, and stands of cottonwood trees - romanticized images that conjure the era before modernization. Historian Kevin Starr (1940-2017) once noted that a driving impulse was Dixon's "sense of imminent loss" of the geography, history, folklore, and culture of the American frontier. He sought to record it all through his art - and words - before it vanished.

Wearing a Stetson hat and cowboy boots, Dixon fashioned a persona that lent an air of authenticity to his search for the "Old West" as he imagined it. At the same time, he pushed stylistic boundaries and helped usher in a new style of modernism. In 1934 he was commissioned by the federal Public Works of Art Project to document the construction of what

## CELEBRATING ARTISTS

**SAN ANTONIO**  
briscoemuseum.org  
March 24-May 5

The Briscoe Western Art Museum will soon host its much-anticipated *Night of Artists*, a selling exhibition featuring more than 280 new paintings, sculptures, and mixed media works by over 85 Western artists. Their pieces encompass landscapes, wildlife, portraiture, and scenes of Native Americans and cowboys.

During the festive opening weekend (March 22-23), the museum will offer events including a collectors' summit, preview dinner, awards breakfast, live auction, exhibition opening, and "luck of the draw" sale. Then, from March 24 through May 5, unsold works will be available to view and to purchase at fixed prices. Tickets for the opening events are available via the museum's website.



MAYNARD DIXON (1875-1946), *Tired Men*, 1923, oil on canvas, 25 x 30 in., private collection

is now called the Hoover Dam near Las Vegas. Scholar John Ott says that these two dozen paintings "...depart dramatically from the nostalgic frontier scenes with which Dixon established his reputation."

This groundbreaking project has been organized by Ann M. Wolfe, the museum's chief curator and associate director, and is accompanied by a 250-page catalogue.



TODD CONNOR (b. 1964), *The Widow and the Widower*, 2022, oil on canvas, 36 x 30 in., winner of the 2023 Night of Artists Museum Purchase Award

Located along the San Antonio River Walk, the Briscoe Western Art Museum's main building was constructed in the 1930s as a public library. After an extensive renovation, the museum opened in 2013, and a branch of the public library still operates on the first floor.

The institution is named in honor of the late Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr., and his wife, Jancy Slaughter Briscoe, who envisioned a museum that would share the story of Western heritage and the remarkable people behind it. This year is especially momentous because the museum has recently produced the first publication surveying its rich and growing permanent collection.