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Booth Western Art Museum to Debut *Space, Silence, Spirit: Maynard Dixon's West*

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. – More than half a century after his death, Western artist Maynard Dixon prepares to make his Southern debut. On May 3, the Booth Western Art Museum debuts *Space, Silence, Spirit: Maynard Dixon's West*. This exhibition is the first major exhibition of Maynard Dixon's work in the southeast. The exhibition brings together works from two of the largest collections of Dixon's work – the collection of Arizona West Gallery owner A.P Hays and the collection of Brigham Young University Museum of Art in Provo, Utah.

The A.P Hays collection consists of more than 90 smaller sketches, drawings, paintings, and personal items. Arranged chronologically, these works trace Dixon's career from his early days as an illustrator to visionary painter of landscapes and beyond. "A.P. Hays' collection of Dixon paintings and drawings span a period of almost 5 decades, chronicling the artist's experiences," said Jeff Donaldson, director of Curatorial Services at the Booth Museum.

Brigham Young University Museum of Art holds the most important Dixon repository in the world. Many of Dixon's great social realist works were purchased by an economist from Brigham Young University along with nearly 60 other Dixon paintings, forming the core of their collection. Fifteen masterworks from this collection were chosen for this exhibition, which represent the range of Dixon's subjects: cowboys, Native Americans, landscapes, allegorical works, and social realism.

Dixon was born in 1875 and raised in Fresno, California. In the 1890s, Dixon moved to San Francisco to attend art school. Although he never finished school, Dixon pursued a career as an illustrator. Later Dixon became dismayed with the increasing commercialization of the field, feeling he was being paid to "lie about the West" and sought refuge in numerous trips to the Western "back country." Although he often scorned trends and movements, the modernist movement obviously influenced Dixon's mural and easel paintings of the 1920s and 1930s.

Now, scholars and collectors of the twenty-first century believe Dixon to be one of the greatest Western artists of all time. His talent to combine the tenants of modernism with Western subject matter satisfies both critics and collectors alike.

Booth Museum members are invited to a members-only opening reception for *Space, Silence, Spirit: Maynard Dixon's West* on Saturday, May 3, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Gallery owner and collector Abe Hays will present a lecture in the Booth Theatre at 7:00 p.m. Museum memberships are available at the door. The public is invited to hear Dr. Susan Campbell, Curator at the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis, during Art for Lunch on June 4 as she presents a lecture on the works in the exhibition on loan from Brigham Young University Museum of Art.

For more information call 770-387-1300 or visit www.boothmuseum.org.

About the Booth Western Art Museum

The Booth Western Art Museum, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is an 80,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, Georgia, where guests are invited to explore the American West through contemporary Western artwork. The Museum also houses a Presidential Gallery, Civil War art gallery, and Sagebrush Ranch – featuring hands-on art activities and areas for role-playing, storytelling and reading, all with a Western flair. Visitors to Booth Museum also enjoy the intimate downtown setting with unique specialty and antique shops, boutiques and nationally featured restaurants all within walking distance of the Museum. Open since August 2003, the Booth Museum is the only museum of its kind in the Southeast and is the second largest art museum in the state of Georgia. To learn more about the Booth Western Art Museum, visit www.boothmuseum.org.

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