

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Booth Western Art Museum to Host 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern  
Cowboy Festival & Symposium, October 21-24, 2010**

CARTERSVILLE, GA – The Booth Western Art Museum will host the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Cowboy Festival & Symposium, October 21-24, 2010. More than 5,000 visitors are expected to attend scheduled events including concerts by **Riders in the Sky**, gunfight reenactments, children's activities, living history encampments, and Native American dancing. Featured artist for this year's event is sculptor John Coleman, who will present a lecture and a workshop. The four day event will take place at the Booth Western Art Museum and the Grand Theatre, both located in historic downtown Cartersville, Georgia.

The Festival and Symposium begins Thursday, October 21, with a unique school program, *Passport to the West*. Living history performances, craft demonstrations and more bring the West to life on this special day just for students. Educators interested in bringing students to the program are urged to call 770-387-3849 soon.

Later that evening, visitors can meet featured artist John Coleman, and listen to Doc Stovall and the Tumbleweed Cowboy Band perform in the Museum atrium from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Coleman will present a lecture on his artistic style and career highlights in the Booth Theatre beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Considered one of the leading sculptors of today, Coleman creates three dimensional art that captures the historical nature and mythology of western subjects, and has recently completed a series of works called the *Bodmer-Catlin Explorer Artists Series*. Using detailed portraits by Karl Bodmer and George Catlin of the Native American people encountered during the Lewis & Clark expedition, Coleman sculpturally captured who these people really were. The Booth Museum owns all ten pieces in this series, permanently on display in the museum's two-story sculpture court. Following the lecture, Coleman will sign copies of the official Festival and Symposium poster in the Museum Store. Thursday evening events are free for Booth Museum members and included with regular admission for not-yet members.

On Friday, October 22, the symposium portion of the event takes place with lectures on a variety of historical and artistic topics from 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the Booth Theatre. Admission to the lectures is free for Booth Museum members and included with regular admission for not-yet-members. Also on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Booth Art Academy will host a sculpture workshop for artists by featured artist John Coleman. For registration information and costs, please call 770-607-3686.

Friday evening, guests are invited to attend the Western Concert in the Booth Ballroom at 7:00 pm, featuring Belinda Gail and Jim Jones. Known as "America's Western Sweetheart," Gail has been honored by the Western Music Association and the Academy of Western Artists as female Performer of the Year and as Entertainer of the Year several times over the course of her career.

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Jim Jones is a gifted songwriter, instrumentalist and producer. He has been named the Western Music Association's Male Vocalist of the Year and is in much demand at festivals and gatherings throughout the West. Tickets are \$15 for not-yet members, \$12 for Booth Museum members and \$10 for students.

Two Saturday concerts at the Grand Theatre feature the internationally famous Riders in the Sky, who will be celebrating 6,000 career performances during the Festival & Symposium. Made up of Ranger Doug, Woody Paul, Too Slim and Joey, Riders in the Sky has been entertaining audiences since 1977. In 1982, they became the first exclusively Western music artist to join the Grand Ole Opry. The group has also provided music for several Walt Disney/Pixar albums, most notably "Woody's Roundup Featuring Riders in the Sky" which was released as a companion album to "Toy Story 2." Tickets for the 2:00 p.m. matinee are \$25 for not-yet members, \$20 for Booth Museum members and \$5 for children 16 and younger. Tickets for the 7:00 p.m. evening performance are \$25 for not-yet members and \$20 for Booth Museum members. Members of Riders in the Sky will be available to sign CDs and meet fans in the Encore Room adjacent to the Theatre following each show.

During the day Saturday, October 23, an array of events for the entire family will be offered in the Cowboy Festival and Western Marketplace on the museum grounds. Entertainment includes re-enactments of the gunfight at the O.K. Corral, Western music and poetry throughout the day on two stages, fast draw competitions, humorous Western skits, demonstrations of traditional Indian dances, chuck wagon cooking, children's activities and a living history encampment with demonstrations of pioneer skills from bygone days. Food vendors at the event will offer homemade root beer, barbecue, hot dogs and other favorite festival food items. Activities will take place between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Admission to the festival grounds, including Booth Museum galleries, is \$10 for not-yet members, \$8 for seniors, \$7 for students, \$3 for children and free for active military and Booth members.

The weekend wraps up Sunday, October 24, beginning with Cowboy Church at 11:00 a.m. This non-denominational church service features cowboy prayers and Western spiritual music and is free for everyone. After the service, visit the Cowboy Festival and Western Marketplace between Noon and 5:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Museum, with the same activities as listed for Saturday taking place.

More details on the schedule of events may be obtained by consulting the Museum Web site at [www.boothmuseum.org](http://www.boothmuseum.org) or calling 770-387-1300.

#### About the Booth Western Art Museum:

The Booth Western Art Museum, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is a 120,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, Georgia. Guests are invited to explore the American West through contemporary Western artwork. The Museum also houses a Presidential Gallery, Civil War art gallery, more than 200 Native American artifacts, and Sagebrush Ranch children's gallery. 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 second largest art museum in the state of Georgia, and houses the largest permanent exhibition space for Western art in the country. To learn more about the Booth Western Art Museum, visit [www.boothmuseum.org](http://www.boothmuseum.org).