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The 50 Top Art Events of 2017

Sneak Peek
Coors Western Art Show
Southeastern Wildlife Expo

Capturing the Beauty of Rural Life

Dramatic Paintings of the Human Figure
there seems to be part of this genre that everyone can identify with—especially since Western films construct such vivid expectations of the era. "It's a show that defies demographics," he says. "I think people will learn that there's a much deeper and more complex story to the development of the West than they currently have in their minds."

With artworks ranging from the mid-1800s to today, the exhibition surveys the dialogue between paintings, sculpture, and film in chronological order. Large-scale paintings, multiple film-viewing areas, photography, prose, and ephemera also aid in telling the history of the era.

Broken into eight chapters, the narrative starts the moment after the Civil War with painting and sculpture, and moves through history to examine films like director John Ford's epic stories and Sergio Leone's heroic Spaghetti Westerns. A focus on contemporary art from the 1980s to today concludes the exhibition.

Sandy Scott
A Retrospective
National Museum of Wildlife Art, Through April 16

BEFORE STARTING a new bronze wildlife piece, Sandy Scott believes in conducting fieldwork to accurately present her subjects to the viewer. With regular trips to Alaska as well as excursions to Europe, Russia, China, and South America under her belt, it's safe to say that Scott's work is undeniably authentic, realistic, and driven from her lived experiences.

Visit the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, WY, for a spectacular immersion in a chronological arrangement of Scott's nearly 45 years of work. Sandy Scott: A Retrospective is a revealing and intimate exhibition of her artistry, with a range of 50 sculptures, 30 etchings, five drawings, and five miniatures on display. The show is unique in presenting a number of infrequently seen samples of Scott's early etchings; she has created sculptures exclusively since 1983 and is most known for her large wildlife monuments. The exhibition also features some of her smaller, early bronze work, which consists mostly of birds in flight, and then it continues to trace her evolution as she began incorporating larger mammals into her oeuvre, such as foxes, bears, and bison.

Dr. Adam Harris, the museum's Peterson curator of art and research, says the museum is fortunate to have examples from both eras—prints and sculpture—of Scott's career. "It is important to recognize the outstanding achievement of such a talented living sculptor," he says. "Hosting this retrospective gives our visitors the rare opportunity to see an incredible selection of work by a single artist, all in one place."

Creating the Modern Southwest
Gilcrease Museum, Through May 14

THE LAND stretching from Texas to Southern California contains some of the most ancient communities in the United States, which drew many con-