



### ***Charles M. Russell: Watercolorist to Open at Sid Richardson Museum***

Russell's watercolors of the 19th century American West are considered to be among his finest efforts, and 16 will be in a rare exhibition from Feb. 11 through May 13, 2012. This exhibition launches the 30th anniversary year of the Fort Worth museum, which holds one of the most significant private collections of paintings by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell in the U.S.

*FORT WORTH, Texas -- Charles M. Russell: Watercolorist*, an exhibition of 16 rarely seen watercolors by the iconic artist of the 19th century American West, will open at the Sid Richardson Museum in Fort Worth on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, and run through Sunday, May 13, 2012.

"Charlie Russell's watercolors will help people gain a greater appreciation for his skill as an artist," said Director Mary Burke. "Although he is well known for his oil paintings, experts on Russell consider his watercolors to be among his finest efforts."

The exhibition at the Richardson Museum is a companion exhibition to the first major retrospective of Russell's watercolors, *Romance Maker: The Watercolors of Charles M. Russell*, which also runs from Feb. 11 through May 13, 2012, at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. Dr. Rick Stewart, a recognized authority on Russell, curated both exhibitions. Prior to his retirement, he was director and then chief curator of the Carter.

At the Richardson Museum, visitors will also be able learn about Russell's process for creating his watercolors. *Indian on Horseback* (1907), a work featured in the exhibition, will be distilled down into a series of step-by-step demonstrations of how Russell began his paintings and the steps he took to make a finished watercolor. The stages will include 1) the underdrawing, 2) applying general washes, 3) layering of colored washes to define shape, 4) using line for definition, and 5) adding highlights. In addition, "paint outs" of Russell's watercolor palette will be included.

Of the 16 Russell watercolors in the Richardson Museum's exhibition, eight are on loan from the Amon Carter Museum, and the following eight rarely exhibited works are part of the Richardson Museum's permanent collection:

1. *Roping*, ca. 1925-1926
2. *Roping the Renegade*, ca. 1883
3. *The Brave's Return*, ca. 1891
4. *Breaking Up the Ring [Breaking Up the Circle]*, 1900
5. *He Tripped and Fell into a Den on a Mother Bear and Her Cubs*, 1910
6. *He Snaked Old Texas Pete Right Out of His Wicky-up, Gun and All*, 1905
7. *A Bad One*, 1912
8. *On the Attack*, 1901

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The eight watercolors on loan from the Amon Carter Museum are as follows:

1. *Crees Meeting Traders*, ca. 1896
2. *War Council*, ca. 1896
3. *Indian on Horseback*, 1907
4. *Indians Sighting Buffalo*, ca. 1896
5. *A Piegan Flirtation*, ca. 1896
6. *Caught Napping*, 1898
7. *Indian Fight*, 1898
8. *Approach of the White Men*, 1897

Burke noted that the watercolors complement the museum's permanent collection of paintings of the 19th century American West by Frederic Remington (1861-1909), Charles M. Russell (1864-1926), and other artists of the same era, amassed by legendary Texas oilman and philanthropist Sid W. Richardson (1891-1959). The museum— which marks its 30th anniversary this year— is recognized as having one of the most significant private collections of Remington and Russell paintings in the United States.

It is appropriate that the museum's 30th anniversary year features an exhibition uniting the collections of Sid Richardson and his close friend, the legendary Fort Worth newspaper publisher, Amon G. Carter Sr. (1879–1955). The collaboration is the legacy of their friendship; in fact, Carter, who also collected Remingtons and Russells, encouraged Richardson to acquire many of the paintings in the Sid Richardson Museum's collection.

Currently, 38 paintings from the permanent collection are on view in the galleries. Nearly one million visitors from all 50 states and 68 countries have toured the museum at 309 Main Street in historic Sundance Square in downtown Fort Worth since its opening in 1982.

Admission is free to the museum, which is open daily except major holidays: Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.sidrichardsonmuseum.org](http://www.sidrichardsonmuseum.org) or call 888.332.6554.

### **About Sid W. Richardson and His Collection**

Oil, cattle, and land formed the basis of Sid Richardson's lifework, and the Sid Richardson Museum is part of his legacy. His love for Western art grew out of his ranching experiences, which provided him with vivid impressions of the American West.

He acquired the majority of the paintings in the collection, numbering more than 100, between 1942 and 1950. He became an avid collector of the works of Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell because he thought they captured, better than any other artists, the vitality, color, and motion that he had always associated with the West.

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In addition to 23 paintings by Remington and 52 paintings by Russell, his collection includes works by other "old masters" of Western art: Oscar E. Berninghaus – a founding member of the Taos Society of Artists, Charles Schreyvogel, Frank Tenney Johnson, William R. Leigh, Edwin W. Deming, Gilbert Gaul, and Charles F. Browne. These artists captured the romance and ruggedness of the western United States in the late 1800s, a time when most Americans had little firsthand knowledge of the frontier.

### **About the Education Program and Tours**

The museum's education program offers students an opportunity to learn about the artists' ideas, lives, and paintings, which reflected life in the American West in late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century America. A classroom provides studio space for hands-on experiences. Presentations, group tours, outreach services, and teacher resources are available at no cost. All educational services, including docent-led tours, require an appointment.

On every second Saturday at 1:00 p.m., a tour of the collection is scheduled, followed by a live performance by a docent dressed as Nancy Cooper Russell, wife of Charles M. Russell, recalling colorful stories from the artist's lifetime, entitled *For Love of Russell*. On every fourth Saturday at 1:00 p.m., docents lead tours of the collection. Admission and tours are free.

### **About the Museum Store**

In addition to enjoying the paintings, visitors will find a special selection of gifts and merchandise in the Museum Store including prints, framed prints on canvas, jewelry, books, sculptures, pottery, and other items related to the spirit of the West.

### **About the Sid W. Richardson Foundation**

The Sid Richardson Museum is owned and fully funded by the Sid W. Richardson Foundation, which Mr. Richardson established in 1947 to support organizations that serve the people of Texas. Foundation directors and staff have sought to fulfill Mr. Richardson's vision by providing grants to educational, health, human service, and cultural organizations.

Directors of the foundation are Edward P. Bass, chairman, Sid R. Bass, and Lee M. Bass; they are grandnephews of Mr. Richardson. Their mother, Nancy Lee Bass, is *director emerita*; their father, Perry R. Bass (1914-2006), was Mr. Richardson's nephew. Pete Geren is president of the Foundation.