

Monday, November 6, 2006

SADDLE UP! NEWLY RENOVATED SID RICHARDSON MUSEUM REOPENS ON FRIDAY, NOV. 10, 2006
Redesign enhances exhibition of legendary Texas oilman's personal collection of Remington and Russell paintings of the Old West

FORT WORTH, Texas -- After a yearlong renovation, the Sid Richardson Museum will reopen on Friday, November 10, 2006, with a public ceremony at 9 a.m. at 309 Main St. in downtown Fort Worth in Sundance Square. The museum features paintings of the Old West by Frederic Remington, Charles M. Russell, and other artists from the personal collection of the legendary Texas oilman and philanthropist Sid W. Richardson (1891-1959).

Participants in the ceremony will include Edward P. Bass, a grandnephew of Mr. Richardson and president of the board of directors of the Sid W. Richardson Foundation, which owns the museum; Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief; Jan Scott, the museum's director; Valleau Wilkie, Jr., executive vice-president of the foundation; the Action Ambassadors of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, and members of the Fort Worth Police Department's Mounted Patrol.

Formerly known as the Sid Richardson Collection of Western Art, the museum is recognized as having one of the most significant small collections of Remingtons and Russells in the United States. Since the museum's opening in 1982, nearly one million visitors from all 50 states and 68 countries have viewed its paintings.

Architect David M. Schwarz's inspired design includes an elegant new façade, an enlarged Museum Store, reconfigured exhibition spaces, a new education resource center and a new group entry area. During the museum's inaugural exhibition for its reopening, visitors will be able to view 39 paintings from the museum's permanent collection, all sporting newly gilded reproduction frames reflective of the period ranging from the late 1800s to early 1900s. Special lighting in the galleries enhances the unique characteristics of each painting for the viewer's enjoyment.

The museum is open 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. It is closed on major holidays. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.sidrichardsonmuseum.org or call 888.332.6554.

About the Collection

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

He acquired the majority of the paintings, numbering more than 100, between 1942 and 1950. He purchased the works of Remington and Russell, "the titans of Western art," with the help of New York art dealer Bert Newhouse and with the encouragement of Fort Worth newspaper publisher and friend Amon Carter. He became an avid collector of their paintings because he

thought they captured, better than any other artists, the vitality, color, and motion that he had always associated with the West.

In addition to 23 paintings by Remington and 52 paintings by Russell, Richardson's collection also includes works by other artists from the era: Charles Schreyvogel, Oscar E. Berninghaus, 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 Renovation and Museum

Renovation of the building began in June 2005 and was completed in October 2006. The project expanded the museum from 4,370 square feet to 6,340, a total of 1,970 square feet. Gallery space was reconfigured to allow simultaneous exhibition of works from the collection and future special exhibitions. The museum's elegant new façade has transformed it into a windowed, visitor-friendly building that fits in with the pedestrian-oriented Sundance Square area. The façade features red granite from the Texas Hill Country ornamented with bronzed brass buffalo medallions.

In addition to enjoying the paintings, visitors will find a special selection of gifts and merchandise in the Museum Store. Items include posters, jewelry, books, sculptures, pottery, prints, note cards, and Christmas ornaments, stockings, and decorative items.

Through the museum's educational program, students learn about the artists' ideas, lives and paintings, which reflected life in the Old West in late 19th- and early 20th-century America. Presentations, group tours and teacher resources are available for free.

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 for the purpose of supporting organizations that serve the people of Texas. Foundation directors and staff have sought to fulfill his vision by providing grants to educational, health, human service and cultural organizations.

In addition to Edward P. Bass, directors of the foundation are his mother, Nancy Lee Bass (*director emerita*), his brothers, Sid R. Bass and Lee M. Bass, and M. E. Chappell. The Bass brothers are grandnephews of Mr. Richardson; their father, Perry R. Bass (1914-2006), was Mr. Richardson's nephew.

Project Consultants

The design architect for the project was David M. Schwarz/Architectural Services, Inc., of Washington, D.C. The firm also designed these North Texas landmarks: the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall in downtown Fort Worth, the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Amerquest Field in Arlington and the American Airlines Center in Dallas.

Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford, a Fort Worth-based architectural firm, was architect of record. Area projects that the firm is known for include the Lupton-Brown University Union (currently in design), the Tucker Technology Center, and the John Justin Athletics Complex, all at Texas Christian University, and the J. Lindsay Embrey Complex at Southern Methodist University.

The Projects Group of Fort Worth, which served as the owner's representative, provided comprehensive program management and project management services. Its hallmark is the proven ability to manage unique, architecturally significant, highly detailed and technical projects such as the Sid Richardson Museum. Its other projects in the area include the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall and the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame.

Project contractor was the Linbeck Group, a Texas construction firm based in Houston that has completed numerous projects in North Texas. The firm provided construction services for the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall, Amon Carter Museum, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Bank One Tower and Cook Children's Medical Center.

Structural engineer was Frank W. Neal & Associates, Inc., and the MEP engineer was Summit Consultants, Inc., both of Fort Worth.

Sibley/Peteet Design of Austin, Texas, provided branding and creative services for exterior and interior signage, merchandise tags and shopping bags, collateral material, print and Internet advertising, and the museum's new logo, which features a replica of Mr. Richardson's initials, SR, taken from a document that he had signed. The firm's clients have included Southwest Airlines, The University of Texas at Austin, Chili's, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation and the Sid W. Richardson Foundation.

R. Wayne Reynolds, director of business development and new product design at Julius Lowy Frame & Restoring Company, Inc. of New York, gilded the reproduction frames in the museum. Lowy offers complete conservation and restoration services for decorative art objects including furniture, frames, and mirrors. In addition to the Sid Richardson Museum, its clients—private collectors, museums, art dealers, architects, and interior designers—include the Amon Carter Museum and Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and the White House and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.