

Family Gallery Guide

ROMANCING THE WEST

Narratives of the 20th Century

SELECTIONS FROM THE DIAMOND M ART COLLECTION



MUSEUM
OF TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY

THE DONORS

Clarence T. McLaughlin (Mick-lock-lin) and Evelyn Claire Littleton were married in 1921 and had four children: Jean, Evelyn, Ruth, and Mark. After serving in the military during WWI, Clarence (C.T) founded the CoMac Drilling Company in Wichita Falls, TX. The McLaughlins purchased a ranch in Snyder, TX, and named it The Diamond M. They had such a passion for collecting that they turned the Diamond M office building (in Snyder) into the official “Diamond M Museum.” In the early 1990s, the Museum closed and the collection was donated to the Museum of Texas Tech University.

* Adapted from gallery text by Dr. Peter Briggs.

SOME TERMS, Y'ALL!

BRAND- symbol created based on the name of a ranch. Crafted into a metal object, it is burned on to the hide of the animals that live on the ranch. You can find the Diamond M brand on a sign in the middle of the gallery.

BRONZE- a type of metal commonly used in sculptures, most often in a range of brown colors. People often refer to a bronze sculpture as a “bronze”.

CANVAS- a woven piece of fabric specially prepared for painting. Typically, set into a frame when seen in museums.

COWBOY/COWGIRL- a person who tends cattle or horses, typically associated with being on horseback.

GAME- animals that are hunted.

HUNTING- the act of searching for game for food or sport.

OIL PAINTING- a painting made using oil-based paints brushed onto a canvas; these paintings often appear shiny.

RANCH- a large piece of land where animals are raised as a business, and where a rancher lives.

SPORT- doing something for fun or adventure rather than for a need.

WAGON- a horse-drawn, covered vehicle, used by early settlers in North America and elsewhere.

WHAT IS WESTERN ART?

Many years ago, the “West” was defined as the area west of the Mississippi River. After the **Louisiana Purchase** in 1803, people began moving west and leaving the east for new territories. This was called **Manifest Destiny**, implying that settlers were entitled to move west and assume land to build their lives and their homes.

Settlers moved into areas where Native Americans already lived for thousands of years, so this meant a change to their lives and cultures as well.

Western Art often shows the people, places, and animals during this time of change and exploration in the 1800s, and sometimes shows them in modern times.

Sometimes Western Art is called Cowboy art, but there are and were more than just cowboys in the American West!





Harvey Thomas Dunn (1884-1952), *The Hearer of Wood and the Hauler of Water*, 1945, Oil on canvas

HARD WORK

Harvey Thomas Dunn was born in a sod house in the Dakota Territory and worked on his father's farm. He wanted to show the value and importance of working hard. Many people who work on farms and ranches also depend on animals to help them in their work.

In this painting, the artist shows us a man and two horses. There are some "clues" that tell us to notice one of the horses more than the other.

Can you identify the clues?

- Which horse has something special tied in its mane? _____
- Which horse is bigger? _____
- Which horse is the same color as the man's shirt? _____
- Which horse is "connected" to the man? _____
- Which horse has turned his head toward the man? _____

Why do you think the artist wants us to notice this horse? _____

Who do you think is the "hewer" and who is the "hauler"? _____

THE FIRST IMAGE

This painting was one of the first collected by the Mclaughlins, and there is a rumor that it was purchased by the family because it reminded them of their daughters. This work is a personal favorite of **Evelyn Davies**.

FUN FACT: The Davies gallery of Southwest Indian art is named after William and Evelyn Davies. Evelyn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Mclaughlin.



Philip Russell Goodwin (1882-1935)
The Rancher's Daughter, 1906
Oil on canvas

The artist has painted a girl on a horse, but are they standing still or moving?

Notice: - the girl's hair -the horse's mane -the dust behind the horse

IN THE SPACE BELOW, CAN YOU DRAW A PICTURE WITH MOVEMENT?

BRONZE SCULPTURES

Bronze is the most popular metal used for sculptures. As you can see, there are many examples of bronze sculptures in this gallery. The art of bronze sculptures became common in Western Art after Frederic Remington's Bronco Buster. The trend of bronze continued throughout the 20th century and still continues even today. Check out the video below on modern bronze pouring techniques.

POURING BRONZE AT THE MONTEREY SCULPTURE CENTER

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qirgHhAKqs

What does a sculpture show that a painting does not? _____



Buffalo by William Leigh 1955, Bronze



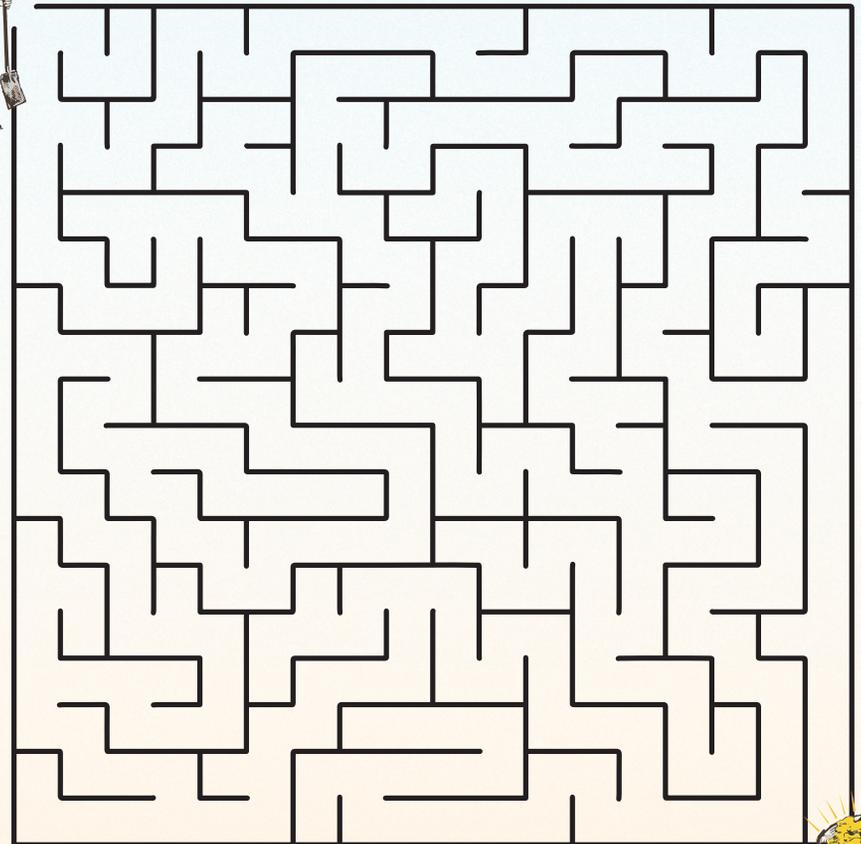
Frank B. Hoffman (1888-1958), The 49'ers, no date, Oil on panel

49ERS

During the **1849** gold rush in California, immigrants flooded to America in search of their fortune. They became known as the "49ers".



HELP THE MAN FIND HIS FORTUNE IN THE MAZE BELOW.





Vladan Stiha (1908-1992), Navajo Encampment, 1971, Oil on canvas

NAVAJO ENCAMPMENT

The Navajo (nah-vuh-hoe) people are one of the largest Indian cultures in the United States. Their land is mostly in New Mexico and Arizona.

The women in this painting are shown wearing velvet blouses, broomstick skirts, and lots of silver and turquoise jewelry (such as necklaces, bracelets, and belts). Navajo women have worn these items for decades, and the men and children wear turquoise and silver, too. The painting was created in 1971, yet the time of the setting could be 1940 or even yesterday.

Today, Navajo people also wear jeans, sneakers, T-shirts, suits, ties, and dresses, but wearing the items of their culture is still done. It is a tradition in their life.

- Do you have any traditions in your family? _____
- Is there something special that you do on a holiday? _____
- Do you have a piece of jewelry that has been handed down to you from a grandmother or other relative? _____



William Henry Dethlef Koerner (1878-1938), Towards a New Home, 1924, Oil on canvas

MOVING WEST

Traveling in a wagon sometimes took months of riding every day in harsh conditions. The painting shows a family's journey to their new home in the American West. Think about what traveling to a new home in a wagon must have been like. How would you describe the people and animals in the picture? Excited? Tired? What about the big cloud in the sky? Why do you think the artist has placed it in the picture? Why do you think it's so dark behind them, and what does that mean? A typical wagon was 10 x 3.5 ft. If you had to move, what would you want to take with you knowing space is limited?



Herbert Morton Stoops (1888-1948), *Unscheduled Stop*, circa 1925, Oil on canvas

OUTLAWS

Outlaws, such as Billy the Kid and Jesse James, were notorious for outrunning the law. Lawmen (policemen of the west) rode hundreds of miles to bring these outlaws to justice. Strangely, sometimes the lawmen might have been an outlaw somewhere else.

Who is wearing green? _____

How is the color green used in the picture? _____

What do you think is happening in this picture? _____

Can you create a story about these characters? _____



FILL IN THE BLANK

_____ has been chasing _____ for _____ years.
(Lawman's name) (Outlaw's name) (number)

He finally heard that he would be traveling by _____
(mode of transportation)

to _____ with _____. He hid behind _____
(Place) (Woman's name) (noun)

and _____ when _____ passed by. _____
(action) (Outlaw's name) (Outlaw's name)

was distracted by _____ and was captured by _____
(Thing) (Lawman's name)

using a _____. _____ brought them back to _____
(Thing) (Lawman's name) (Place)

for his trial and punishment for _____.
(crime)



CHECK IT OUT!

FOLLOW THE LINKS BELOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WESTERN ART

Amon Carter Museum – www.cartermuseum.org

Denver Art Museum – www.denverartmuseum.org

Autry Museum – theautry.org

ON THE COVER

Frank B. Hoffman
(1888-1958),
The 49'ers
no date
Oil on panel



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