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C.M. Russell Museum Announces 2017 Members of the Russell Skull Society of Artists

December 1, 2016, Great Falls, Mont. – The C.M. Russell Museum is proud to welcome two new artists into the Russell Skull Society of Artists. Formed in 2013 to recognize a group of distinguished painters and sculptors for their dedication to keeping the traditions of Charles M. Russell alive, the Russell Skull Society welcomes Luke Frazier and Joe Kronenberg, who will join 20 returning society members.

Luke Frazier’s work has been compared to that of Carl Rungius and Bob Kohn. He started painting in his teens and draws inspiration from the natural wonders he sees in his travels—from Alaska to Africa. His work has appeared in numerous prestigious shows and museums, including the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming, and the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles, California.

A native of the Pacific Northwest, Joe Kronenberg works in oils and strives to create paintings that embody the aesthetic and objective standards of the 19th century European academic art world. He was the winner of the C.M. Russell Auction’s Ralph “Tuffy” Berg Award in 2009 and has had five paintings recognized as finalists in the Art Renewal Center’s International Salon in recent years.

“It is truly exciting to have artists like Luke and Joe as part of the Russell Skull Society,” said Senior Art Coordinator Duane Braaten. “The Skull Society artists are ambassadors for both Western art and the C.M. Russell Museum, and we know Luke and Joe will represent both very well.”

Both artists have participated in the C.M. Russell Museum’s premiere fundraising event The Russell: An Exhibition and Sale to Benefit the C.M. Russell Museum, selling pieces in both the First Strike Auction and Live Auction in previous years. In 2017, both will have pieces on display at the Russell Skull Society of Artists Suites, a free event during Western Art Week that is open to the public and presented by sponsors George and Annie Thom and Sarah Stevenson. BNSF Railway is the 2017 Presenting Sponsor of The Russell Exhibition and Sale.


For more information about the Russell Skull Society of Artists and The Russell, please visit www.cmrussell.org.

Luke Frazier  Joe Kronenberg
The mission of the C.M. Russell Museum is to collect, preserve, research, interpret and educate on the art and life of Charles M. Russell; the art and lives of his contemporaries; and the art of preceding and ensuing generations that depicts and focuses on the culture, life and country of Russell’s West. The vision of the C.M. Russell Museum is to share Russell’s West with excellence.