



C.M. RUSSELL MUSEUM[®]

The Art and Soul of the American West

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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C. M. Russell Museum Announces *The Russell* 2026 Art Auction

Great Falls, MT — The C.M. Russell Museum proudly announces its annual auction, *The Russell*, scheduled for March 19–21, 2026, in Great Falls. Widely regarded as one of the premier art auctions in the nation, this year’s event brings together masterworks by Charles M. Russell and fellow historic figures such as Maynard Dixon and O.C. Seltzer, presented alongside accomplished contemporary Western artists including Chad Poppleton, Michael Blessing, Nancy Dunlop Cawdrey, and Brooke Wetzel.

“This event is not only about remarkable art and artists,” says Duane Braaten, Executive Director of the C.M. Russell Museum. “It’s a celebration of the people, the stories, and the values that continue to shape the West and resonate far beyond it. *The Russell* allows us to bring those stories forward in a way that is authentic, welcoming, and deeply rooted in Montana.”

The three-day event unfolds as a dynamic Western Art Week experience, beginning Thursday, March 19, with the *Art Preview Party*, where guests receive the first opportunity to view the exceptional works featured in both *First Strike* and *The Russell*. On Friday morning, *Art in Action* invites attendees to experience the creative process firsthand as renowned artists bring new works to life, engaging with guests about their inspirations and techniques. The afternoon concludes with a live auction in which 100 percent of the proceeds from sold works are generously donated to the C.M. Russell Museum by participating artists. That evening, excitement continues with the *First Strike Friday Night Auction*, highlighting outstanding contemporary Western artists in an energetic and welcoming atmosphere for both seasoned collectors and new art enthusiasts. Western Art Week culminates Saturday night with *The Russell*, the pinnacle event of the weekend, featuring significant historic works and drawing collectors from across the country.

All proceeds from *The Russell* directly benefit the C.M. Russell Museum and its mission to share, educate, and celebrate Charles M. Russell’s art, life, and legacy, the art of his contemporaries, and all Western and Indigenous art and culture that reflects Russell’s spirit.

For more information about *The Russell* and to preview auction highlights, visit TheRussellSale.org

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About the C.M. Russell Museum

The C.M. Russell Museum is the first museum of Western art in the United States and traces its origins to 1930, when the log cabin studio of artist Charles Marion Russell (1864 – 1926) opened as the Russell Memorial in Great Falls, Montana. The C.M. Russell Museum Complex has grown substantially over the decades, with the mission to share the life, art, and times of Charles M. Russell as we learn from the past, honor the present, and inspire the future cultures of Russell's West. The museum complex includes a vast collection of art, artifacts, and archival materials associated with Russell and other significant Western artists and the fully restored Russell home and studio, a National Historic Landmark.

Visit cmrussell.org for more information.