



## NEWS RELEASE

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# GO WEST!

## Art of the American Frontier from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West

Exhibition of Paintings and Plains Indian Artifacts Opens  
to the Public November 15 at Joslyn Art Museum, Continues through April 17



(Omaha, NE) – Few aspects of our national history have had a more lasting influence than the exploration and settlement of the western frontier. With the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803, American lands doubled in size, and in the years following the Civil War, our efforts and energies turned to the western horizon. Yet by the beginning of the twentieth century, the frontier had closed, and hundreds of thousands of American Indians had been displaced from their ancestral lands as settlers and industry pressed forward to the Pacific Ocean. *Go West! Art of the American Frontier* considers evolving notions of the American West through more than 90 artworks and artifacts from the collection of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming. Presenting a story that is boisterous and heroic yet

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Now at Joslyn: *Go West! Art of the American Frontier from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West*

tempered by difficult truths, *Go West!* reveals an exciting narrative of one of the most important chapters in our history, as seen by our finest artists and artisans.



*Go West!* opens with works by some of the West's first artist-explorers, including Alfred Jacob Miller and George Catlin, who traveled extensively among the American Indian tribes of the Great Plains. Meanwhile, depictions of emigrants and family life by William Ranney offered an accessible view of the frontier for eastern audiences, helping to usher in a changing vision of the West from a distant and unfamiliar land to a place that could be seen as home. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the landscape itself took center stage, its majestic portrayal owing as much to the imagination as to topographic observation. Trained in the European Romantic tradition, Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran capitalized on growing public interest in the lands beyond the Missouri River. Although both artists saw development spread throughout the western territories and relied on urban patronage, their paintings were steadfast in presenting a sublime natural world seemingly unaffected by man. The landscapes they portrayed were stirring and spectacular, helping to shape an idealized image of an untouched wilderness that still guides our understanding of the West.

*Go West!* also features a remarkable selection of objects from the Buffalo Bill Center's Plains Indian Museum. For Plains Indian peoples, art was integral to life, and every item in daily use was crafted by hand and decorated with fine beadwork, quillwork, stitching, or paint as an expression of personal creativity and cultural traditions. By the 1870s, however, these traditions were challenged as Plains peoples faced the destruction of the great buffalo herds and were forced onto reservations. On view throughout the exhibition are examples from several tribes of the Great Plains, offering an intimate perspective into their cultures and experiences at a time of great social change.

By the turn of the twentieth century, the frontier was quickly fading into the past, and the creation of its myths and legends began in earnest. The Wild West was becoming tame, and the cowboy emerged as a symbol of individuality and strength born of the frontier. Countless depictions of cowboys, American Indians, and other frontier characters in popular journals, helped define America's heroic image of the West. No artists better captured the spirit of the cowboy than Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, whose rough-and-tumble scenes in watercolor, oil, and bronze sculpture captured life on the range. At the same time, artists mourned the passing of traditional American Indian life through images of defeated warriors and idealized tableau of pre-reservation times. American Indian subjects were adopted in the search for a distinctly American vocabulary, evoking regret and longing for a frontier of the past.

Through paintings, sculpture, and Plains Indian objects that span the century between 1830 and 1930, *Go West!* celebrates the complex history of the West, from the territory's earliest explorers to the invention of the vigorous legends that still inspire us. While at times wistful or romantic, the struggles and challenges first captured by these artists continue to this day, and are every bit as relevant to the story of the modern West.

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### Exhibition Tickets and Tours

*Go West!* is open to the public November 15, 2015, through April 17, 2016.

*Go West!* is a ticketed exhibition. Joslyn members see it first and see it free! \$10 for general public adults; members, youth ages 17 and younger, and college students with ID are free. Special Thursday pricing (4–8 pm): \$5 for general public adults. All visitors, including members, must obtain a ticket at the admissions desk for entrance to the exhibition. Programs with visits to the exhibition will be priced accordingly for general public adults. Docent-guided tours of the exhibition are offered weekly (ticket pricing applies; view the calendar of events at [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org) for tour offerings).

### Exhibition Programs & Events

*Go West!* public programs are supported in part by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

**Friday, November 13; 6:30 pm**

#### *Joslyn Art Museum Association Annual Gala*

This celebratory evening includes cocktails, exhibition viewing, dinner served in the concert hall, whiskey tasting, entertainment by Bad Country, and special guests: Winnebago dancers. For dinner, Joslyn is raising *The Bar* to the highest point in the Museum: the concert hall balcony. Main floor concert hall seating for the Gala is sold out, but limited seating is available at *The Bar*. Enjoy elegant long table seating as you dine on high for a gala experience second to none. Tickets for the Gala (*The Bar* seating) are \$150 per person (including cocktail hour, dinner, whiskey tasting, and entertainment). Tickets at <http://bit.ly/GW-Gala>. Questions? Contact Erika Conces, Donor Relations Manager, at (402) 933-8220 or [econces@joslyn.org](mailto:econces@joslyn.org).

**Saturday, November 14; 10 am–4 pm and 5–8 pm**

#### *Members Preview Day & Evening Event*

Every ticketed special exhibition at Joslyn opens first and exclusively for members. The members preview day for *Go West!* is Saturday, November 14. From 10 am to 4 pm, members show their membership card at the admissions desk for tickets to the exhibition on preview day (reservations not required during the day). Curator gallery talks will be offered that day at noon and 2 pm by Toby Jurovics, Chief Curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art.

On Saturday evening, November 14, members are invited to a private lecture and reception celebrating *Go West!* At 5 pm, hear an introduction to the exhibition by guest lecturer Karen McWhorter, Scarlett Curator of Western American Art for the Buffalo Bill Center of the West's Whitney Western Art Museum. The presentation will be followed by exhibition viewing, complimentary light hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar from 5:30–7 pm.

An optional paid, prix fixe dinner service, Dine at Joslyn, is offered to Joslyn members the night of the preview for \$40 per person. Menu – first course trio of granny smith apple slaw with black peppercorn, aioli, and cranberry; panna cotta with celeriac root, cream, and sweet potato chip; and fall root vegetable bisque with butternut, acorn, seared portabella and crimini mushrooms; second course of beef tenderloin with shallot cream bordelaise, fingerling potato, and roasted cauliflower; and dessert of chocolate torte with RumChata, espresso, ganache, and berries.

To inquire about joining Joslyn and/or attending this preview, call the membership department at (402) 661-3858.

**December 2015**

#### *Go West! Ice Cream*

eCreamery Ice Cream & Gelato and Joslyn bring you a taste of the sweeter side of the West. This December, the ice cream artists at eCreamery are churning a custom *Go West!*-inspired flavor – "Cowboy Apple Pie," a luscious apple ice cream with caramel granola cobbler clusters. A percentage of the December sales of pints of Joslyn's "Cowboy Apple Pie" (and all the flavor's proceeds on one day; TBA!) will benefit the Museum.

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**Thursdays, December 10 and March 3 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)**

***Curator Gallery Talks***

Regular exhibition ticketing applies (\$5 Thursday evening pricing for general public adults).

Join Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's Chief Curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art, for a look at *Go West!* Jurovics will discuss the significance of the exhibition and key works by featured artists.

**Saturdays, December 12 and April 9; 10 am–noon**

***KickstART Saturday***

*KickstART Saturday* activities are free. General public adults receive \$5 discounted tickets to the exhibition on this day. When American Indian families gathered wood or food, they marked the pile they collected with an owner stick, decorated to represent their family. At *KickstART Saturday*, create an owner stick for your family. After art-making, clap your hands and stomp your feet to the movements of the River City Squares dancers.

**Thursday, February 4 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)**

***Travels in Horse Culture***

This event is free and open to the public. Guest lecturer Emil Her Many Horses, curator in the office of Museum Scholarship at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), Smithsonian Institution, and a member of the Oglala Lakota nation of South Dakota, specializes in the central Plains cultures. His exhibition, *A Song for the Horse Nation*, and NMAI publication, *A Song for the Horse Nation: Horses in Native American Cultures*, edited by George P. Horse Capture and Emil Her Many Horses (2006), describes the epic story of the horse's influence on American Indian tribes from the 1600s to the current era.

**Saturday, February 13; 7–10 pm**

***Valentine's Shindig – Cocktails & Concert***

Don't miss this Valentine experience celebrating the Wild West! Details to be announced at [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org).

**Thursday, February 25 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)**

***The Works of A.D.M. Cooper***

This program is open to the public and free with exhibition admission (all participants must obtain a ticket prior to entering the *Go West!* exhibition, \$5 Thursday evening pricing for general public adults), however seating is limited and advance reservations are required. Contact Susie Severson, Director of Adult Programs, at (402) 661-3862 or [sseverson@joslyn.org](mailto:sseverson@joslyn.org).

Heather Fryer, Ph.D., is Fr. Henry W. Casper, SJ Professor of History and Director of the American Studies Program at Creighton University, where she specializes in the social and cultural history of the American West in the twentieth century. She will present "Viewing Viewers Viewing Relics from the Past: A Historian's Reflections on Three Works by A.D.M. Cooper." Cooper lamented the closing of the frontier and sought to capture images of Indians presumed to be on the verge of "vanishing." Three Cooper paintings featured in *Go West!* are meditations on viewing the Western past.

**Thursday, March 24 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)**

***Photographs of Timothy H. O'Sullivan***

This event is free and open to the public. Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's Chief Curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art, will present "Explorations and Surveys West of the 100th Meridian: The Western Photographs of Timothy H. O'Sullivan."

**Thursday, April 7 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)**

***Joslyn Art Museum's 2nd Annual Graham and Sally Lusk Lecture: The Last Buffalo***

This event is free and open to the public. Peter Hassrick, Director Emeritus and Senior Scholar, Buffalo Bill Center of the West, discusses Albert Bierstadt's monumental, aesthetically and culturally complex allegory to the Indian's and

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the bison's shared demise, *The Last of the Buffalo*. A centerpiece of *Go West!*, this painting provides the focus of this lecture, which will explore the nation's nascent wildlife conservation movement, Yellowstone National Park history, Buffalo Bill, his Wild West and his Indians, and American and French art tastes and trends of the late-nineteenth century.

Thursday, April 12 @ 7 pm

**Creighton University's 2016 Ross Horning Lecture: *The Hour of Land***

This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are required through Creighton University; details will be posted to Joslyn's website when available. Essayist and nature writer Terry Tempest Williams is guest speaker for Creighton University's Department of History Ross Horning Lecture, held at Joslyn Art Museum. Williams has been called "a citizen writer," a writer who speaks out eloquently on behalf of an ethical stance toward life. She is the author of the environmental literature classic, *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*. She will be speaking on the topic of her upcoming book, *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks* (June 2016).



Arts organizations across Omaha are presenting exhibitions, performances, and events related to the American West, fall 2015 through spring 2016. These extraordinary offerings, several in partnership with Joslyn, are collectively showcased under the title **Westward O**.

Experience the West as interpreted through everything from art and food to film and ballet. Join in the conversation at #westwardomaha. Programs include:

***Symphony Joslyn – "I Hear America Singing"***

**January 10, 2016**

Sweeping, tuneful works by American composers come together in this appealing program conducted by Thomas Wilkins and featuring baritone Christopher Burchett. Details at [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org). A partnership with Joslyn Art Museum.

***Picturing the West @ Film Streams***

**Winter 2016**

Delight in the astounding works of great filmmakers like John Ford with this series of nearly a dozen films. *Picturing the West* will also be an opportunity to examine how movies contributed to the mythologizing of the American West. All screenings held at Film Streams at the Ruth Sokolof Theater (1340 Mike Fahey Street). Series titles, screening times, and ticket information coming soon at [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org). A partnership with Joslyn Art Museum.

***Tour Two: Exhibitions at Joslyn and The Durham Museum***

**Spring 2016**

Enjoy two unique perspectives on the historic American West! Your tour will include exhibitions at both museums. At The Durham Museum, take a guided tour of *From Nebraska to the World: Buffalo Bill's Wild West* (original objects and reproductions from notable lenders exploring the history of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, which debuted in Omaha on May 19, 1883). At Joslyn, tour *Go West!* Dates, pricing, and reservation information coming soon at [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org). A partnership with Joslyn Art Museum.

***Momentum: Go West!***

**April 1, 2016**

*Momentum*, Ballet Nebraska's award-winning "mixed-repertory" program, showcases the artistic range and choreographic variety of ballet as a captivating art form. Heading this season's program will be the premiere of Erika Overturff's new ballet *Go West!*, inspired by the spirit and stories of the American West. Details at [Joslyn.org](http://Joslyn.org). A partnership with Joslyn Art Museum.

Additional programs include **Opera Omaha's** presentation of Puccini's beloved *La fanciulla del West* ("The Girl of the Golden West"), **February 12 and 14, 2016**, and the **Omaha Area Youth Orchestra** Spring Concert with music by Aaron Copland, held at Joslyn on **March 6, 2016**.

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### Other Programs at Joslyn

Many of Joslyn's regularly scheduled programs will feature *Go West!*-inspired themes this winter. Visit [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org) for complete details.

- **Art Encounters** (Thursday, November 19): Enjoy a docent-guided tour of the exhibition during this program held in partnership with Nebraska Medicine's Health and Wellness Club. \$5 for general public adults on November 19 (includes *Go West!* exhibition ticket); free for Joslyn members and members of Nebraska Medicine's Health and Wellness Club.
- **Story Adventures** (Tuesday, December 15): This free gallery reading program for preschoolers and young readers accompanied by an adult features *Go West!* Guests must stop at the entrance desk for a ticket, which is complimentary for general public adults for this program.
- **Stroller Tours** (Wednesday, January 20): Featuring a docent-guided tour of the *Go West!* exhibition for adults with small children. Requires advance registration and payment at the door; free for Joslyn members and infants/toddlers; \$10 for general public adults on January 20 (all other Stroller Tour sessions are \$5 for general public adults); register online at [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org).
- **Visualizing Literature – *Roughing It* by Mark Twain** (Tuesday, March 8): *Visualizing Literature* explores connections between the literary and visual arts through moderated book discussions and gallery tours led by Joslyn docents. Presented in partnership with Nebraska Medicine's Health and Wellness Club, *Visualizing Literature* is open to anyone interested in art and literature. Book discussions are free to Joslyn Members and members of Health and Wellness Club; the general public may attend for \$5. No reservations are required. Books may be available for purchase in Joslyn's Hitchcock Museum Shop.
- **Art Camps and Classes**  
Joslyn offers winter 2015/spring 2016 classes inspired by the exhibition for ages five to adult. Watch for classes to be posted at [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org) > Education > Classes. Online class registration available; Joslyn members receive discount registration.

Pictured (page 1): Albert Bierstadt (American, born Germany, 1830–1902), *The Last of the Buffalo*, ca. 1888, oil on canvas, Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, Wyoming, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney Trust Fund Purchase, 2.60



**Our Mission** — Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.  
**Our Vision** — To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration (new in 2014).

**General Museum Admission:** Free (additional charge for general public adult tickets to *Go West!*).

**Regular Museum Hours:** Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

[www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org) | (402) 342-3300 | 2200 Dodge Street | Omaha, NE 68102