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Gaylord-Pickens Museum opens *The Cowboy Way* by Harold Holden

OKLAHOMA CITY – On Aug. 6, the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum will open *The Cowboy Way* in its Tulsa World Gallery. In keeping with the gallery's mission to showcase Oklahoma artists, the exhibit will be a retrospective of internationally-recognized painter and sculptor Harold T. Holden's 40-year career.

Born in Enid, Holden attended Oklahoma State University and graduated from the Texas Academy of Art in Houston. He launched his career in the commercial art field, eventually becoming art director at *Horseman Magazine*, but began his fine art career at night, painting and sculpting his first love – the American West.

In 1973, Holden ventured out on his own as a professional fine artist. In 1987, he was selected to sculpt a series of commemorative bronzes to depict the 165 year history of the Cherokee Strip in Oklahoma and Kansas. That same year he completed his first of many monuments, *Boomer*, for the City of Enid. Since then, Holden has completed more than 20 monuments, including *Oklahoma's Native Son - Will Rogers* at Will Rogers World Airport, *Headin' to Market* at the Oklahoma City Stockyards, *Monarch at Rest* at the Oklahoma History Center, *Bronco* at the University of Central Oklahoma and *World Champion* at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds.

Known for his attention to detail, Holden spends much of his free time roping and staying close to the cowboy way of life, giving him great knowledge of his favorite subject matters.

“What a treasure Harold Holden is to the American West culture and to Oklahoma,” said Shannon L. Rich, president of the Oklahoma Heritage Association and Gaylord-Pickens Museum. “He beautifully captures the spirit of strength and character so evident in our people and our land.”

Holden regularly shows in the Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition and Sale at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and has several works on display at the Oklahoma State Capitol. He has received lifetime achievement award from Oklahoma Sculpture Society, the Oklahoma Governor's Art Award from Gov. Frank Keating and Oklahoma State University's State University's Distinguished Alumni award. In September, Holden will travel to Lubbock to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual American Culture Awards, which recognizes those who make significant contributions to the development of America's Cowboy Culture.

Holden's studio is near Kremlin and his gallery, Holden Art & Law, is located in Enid.

*The Cowboy Way* will be on display Aug. 6 through Nov. 30 at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum. An opening reception will be held Thursday, Aug. 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Museum at NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street & Shartel Avenue. The reception is open to the public and will include wine and appetizers by Cheever's Catering and entertainment by renowned cowboy singer R. W. Hampton. The reception is free for Museum members and free with paid admission for non-members. RSVP to Corie Baker at 405.523.3212 or [clb@oklahomaheritage.com](mailto:clb@oklahomaheritage.com).

Through high-tech, interactive exhibits, the Gaylord-Pickens Museum allows visitors to experience Oklahoma's story through its people. Video-driven displays and computer touch screen provide guests a unique look into the lives of famous and everyday Oklahomans who have impacted our state, country and world.

For more information about the Museum, the Tulsa World Gallery or *The Cowboy Way*, visit [www.oklahomaheritage.com](http://www.oklahomaheritage.com) or call 405.235.4458.

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