

BUFFALO BILL ART SHOW & SALE GROWS EVEN WHEN OTHER SHOWS AND SALES ARE DOWN

Once again, Cody, Wyoming was the place to be on the last weekend in September: The weather was perfect, the town was ready to meet and greet, and the Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale offered outstanding western art for auction to generous buyers. This year's show sold out early in the week, welcoming more than 650 guests. The excitement and drama of the Quick Draw, consistently one of the most popular events of the weekend, saw more than 700 guests stroll about the Robbie Powwow Garden to marvel as thirty-five artists produced fine art in just an hour.

This year's total preliminary gross is \$770,000, up from \$756,000 in 2008 with 150 fewer attendees. However, that is far from the final story. The marvelous artists who participate in the show earn a 70-percent commission when their piece sells. Then expenses are paid, and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center and the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce share final net profits: 60 percent to the Center and 40 percent to the Chamber. In addition, gross receipts are preliminary, as there may be some additional sales and the total could change slightly.

Eighty-seven live auction pieces sold at the Friday night gala, producing \$602,800 in gross receipts, and the Saturday morning Quick Draw yielded more than \$82,000 in gross receipts. The Friday auction opened with a brass fanfare by the Cody High School music department followed by the singing of the national anthem. The big sellers were Honored Artist T.D. Kelsey's bronze fountain, "Fly Fishin'," which went for \$36,000 and T.J. Feely's oil painting "Mountain Stage," which also sold for \$36,000.

The Best of Show award, a \$20,000 prize sponsored by the Buffalo Bill Historical Center and the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce, went to Kyle Sims for his oil painting "Spring Loaded." The painting sold at the auction for \$18,000.

Two William E. Weiss Purchase Awards, sponsored by the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, were given this year: Steve Schrepferman's earthenware sculpture "Mother's Touch," and Karen Vance's oil painting "Emerging Spring." Both become part of the permanent collection of the Whitney Gallery of Western Art at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

The Artists' Choice award went to a new participant: Mikel Donahue, a colored pencil artist from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. His piece, "Water Colors," sold for \$8,500.

The People's Choice award, sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank, went to Karen Vance for her oil, "Emerging Spring."

The two-dimensional award, sponsored by Basin Mechanical, was also Karen Vance for her painting "Emerging Spring."

The Sculpture Award, sponsored by Nielson & Associates, went to Robert Deurloo for his bronze sculpture of a trout, "The Fighter." It sold for \$3,400.

The People's Choice for the Quick Draw went to Duke Beardsley, and the Mike Maier Award went to Julie Jeppsen.

As with so many fundraising events for Cody non-profit organizations, success depends on a dedicated group of volunteers and staff of the Center and the Chamber, many of whom have been supporting the Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale for years.