

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 31 March 2017  
CONTACT: STEPHANIE TURNHAM  
PHONE: 830.377.6443

#### KAREN COOPER IS ARTIST OF THE MONTH AT MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART

The Museum of Western Art is showcasing artist Karen Cooper as the April Artist of the Month. A wine and cheese reception will be held on Thursday, April 20, at 5:30 p.m. Non-museum members are invited to attend with a suggested donation of \$10, and museum members can attend at no charge. Please call 896.2553 to r.s.v.p.

Karen is well known for action and movement in her paintings, as well as the drama of the negative space that is her signature. In her paintings a collector has the best of the abstract, in the negative space, but also the best of realism in the actual subject. Add Karen's eye for color and you have a true one-of-a-kind creation of real people and animals frozen for a split second from an actual event.

"Black is defined as, 'the absence of light and the absorption of all color, therefore, I believe that my black paper is looking for light and color to come alive,'" Cooper said. "When I start a painting, I fulfill that quest. I try to create the positive of the light with the pure colors of pastels letting the negative of the rich black space make its own case for being left to itself. The key is in knowing what to omit and what to add, that is when my art comes to be, when my composition comes to life."

For the last number of years Karen has been involved with many museum and private shows. She has shown at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum, the American Quarter Horse Museum in Amarillo, the Pearce Museum with the Western Artists of America and A New Look at the West, The Museum of Western Art, and, the Desert Caballeros Western Art Museum in Cowgirl Up! where she just completed her fifth year. She has also been a part of the Greeley Stampede, The Bosque Art Classic, the Texas Hill Country Invitational, the Mountain Oyster Club Western Art Show and the recent Traveling the West Art Show and Sale in Dallas. She has been well awarded throughout these shows bringing in Gold, Silver and Bronze awards with the Western Artists of America, the coveted poster award twice at Cheyenne Frontier Days in 2011 and 2015 as well as their limited edition print in 2012. 2013 saw a "First Place in Two-Dimensional Art on Paper" at Cowgirl Up! and her first of two "Second Place in Pastel" awards at the Bosque Art Classic and her first of three "First Place in Dry Media" at the Hill Country Invitational.

Karen's work is featured in the permanent collection of the Pearce Museum, the Greeley Stampede and of the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, GA.