

First Annual George Montgomery Award to be Presented at Palm Springs Art Museum's Western Art Council Welcome Back Barbeque



Photo credit: Bill Anderson, Jack Benny, Dinah Shore, and George Montgomery, March 24, 1957, Photographic print on ethafoam board, Gift of Dorothy Anderson

October 27, 2008 - (Palm Springs, CA) The first annual George Montgomery Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Palm Springs Art Museum's Western Art Council will be presented at the organization's October 30 Welcome Back Barbeque at Leon's at the Canyon. The award recognizes persons for their contributions, support, service and dedication to Western Art Council (WAC). This year's award will be presented by WAC president, Virginia Hillgoss, to the surviving members of the four couples who founded the Western Art Council in 1984: Jackie Autry, Nanci Denney, Jean Hahn Hardy and Sharon Lynch (who will be on hand to personally receive her award).

This award has been established in the name of the late well-known actor, artist and philanthropist George Montgomery in recognition of his multi-faceted talents and accomplishments, his generosity in donating his significant art collection to the Palm Springs Art Museum, and for his enthusiastic support of the Western Art Council's events and programs. Montgomery's daughter, Melissa Montgomery, will be present to assist in the presentation of the award. In addition to the award presentation, the event will include a Western-style barbeque buffet, live Western music featuring Bobby Furgo, dancing, a silent auction and a no-host bar. The Welcome Back Barbeque will be held this Thursday, October 30, 2008 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Leon's at the Canyon, Indian Canyons Golf Club. Tickets are \$75 per person. Guests are welcome.

The Western Art Council embraces all types of Western and Native American art from traditional to contemporary as it relates to the West. WAC raises funds to purchase both historic and contemporary Western Art for the Museum's permanent collection and to support special exhibitions.

Located downtown in an architecturally-significant E. Stewart Williams-designed building, the Palm Springs Art Museum features exciting exhibitions of contemporary, Native American, Western and Pre-Columbian art in spacious galleries. It features two sculpture gardens, stimulating lectures and educational programs for all ages, and offers diverse performances at its Annenberg Theater. The Art Museum is open six days a week; Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free to members; \$12.50 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors 62 and over; \$5 for adult students and active-duty military with I.D. and free for youths 17 and under. For more information, call 760.322.4800 or visit www.psmuseum.org.

#

#

#