



NEWS RELEASE

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Celebrating the Women of the West at The Women's Museum Photography exhibit featuring Cowgirls, Ranch Women and Rodeo Gals to open April 10th

DALLAS, April 9, 2009 – The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future announces today this opening of an exhibit of 75 black and white photographs sharing the untold stories of the women of the west will open on April 10, 2009. The collection of images, taken by photographer Ann Meredith, spans seventeen years and provides an intimate glimpse into the lives of these pioneering women. Subjects include women working on the range, roping steers at rodeo and relaxing at home on the land.

Meredith's photographs show women participating in events and performing tasks typically attributed to male rodeo riders and ranch workers. The exhibit counters that stereotype, proving that women have just as much to contribute to the rodeo circuit and ranch responsibilities as their male counterparts. As rodeo season continues, this exhibit shows women participating in events that not too long ago were open only to men.

Meredith's subjects hail from towns and cities as close as Hereford, Texas, and spanning across America, including Phoenix, Arizona; Blackfoot, Idaho; Weehawken, New Jersey. They range in age from teenage rodeo queens to older women who have spent their lives working hard on their ranch.

"Women of the West demonstrate strength of character and spirit of perseverance that, as a national women's museum, we believe is common in all American women," said Wanda Brice, CEO of The Women's Museum.

An opening reception for the exhibit will be held on April 9, 2009, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at The Women's Museum. Museum programs in conjunction with the exhibit include:

- **Women of the West, May 2, 1 p.m.**, a panel discussion featuring ranch women and rodeo gals.
- **Hold Your Horses, June 6, 1 p.m.**, will be an outdoor family festival featuring trick ropers and horse demonstrations.

*The Women's Museum, in association with the Smithsonian Institution, is the nation's only comprehensive women's history museum that chronicles the lives of American women through interactive exhibits. **The Women's Museum is supported, in part, by the City of Dallas and the Texas Commission on the Arts.** Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m. (closed Mondays). For more information, please visit www.thewomensmuseum.org.*

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