

Merkel Family Foundation
Spring 2009 | Distinguished Lecture Series

The Charles M. Russell Center
of the University of Oklahoma
School of Art and Art History

presents

Donald J. Hagerty

Author and Art Historian



Maynard Dixon
U.S. (1875-1946)
Land of White Mesas, 1932
Oil on canvas
30 x 40 inches

The Eugene B. Adkins Collection
at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of
Art, the University of Oklahoma,
Norman and the Philbrook
Museum of Art, Tulsa

Burning Man: On the Trail of Maynard Dixon

Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009, at 7 p.m.

free and open to the public

Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium

Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art

555 Elm Ave., Norman, OK 73019

in the OU Arts District

followed by a reception and book signing at 8 p.m.

in the Sandy Bell Gallery, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art

The following book will be available for purchase:

A Place of Refuge: Maynard Dixon's Arizona

by THOMAS BRENT SMITH; with an additional essay by DONALD J. HAGERTY

(Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008)



Charles M.
RUSSELL CENTER
for the Study of Art of the American West

The University of Oklahoma School of Art and Art History • <http://art.ou.edu/russellcenter/> • 405.325.5939

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. For special accommodations please contact the Russell Center at 405.325.5939.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NOTED AUTHOR, ART HISTORIAN TO
SPEAK AT OU MUSEUM**

NORMAN, OKLA. (February 19, 2009) – The Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West at the University of Oklahoma School of Art and Art History will present a lecture by Donald J. Hagerty, noted author and art historian from Davis, Calif. Hagerty will speak at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19, in the Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 555 Elm Avenue, in the *OU Arts District*.

The lecture is part of the Merkel Family Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series and will be followed by a reception in the Sandy Bell Gallery of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. The lecture and reception are free and open to the public; seating is limited.

Hagerty's lecture, "Burning Man: On the Trail of Maynard Dixon," will present writings and images by Maynard Dixon (U.S., 1875-1946) to show how the artist's landscape, Native American and Depression era paintings responded to the fading memory of the Old West and the emergence of a New West. Hagerty has conducted extensive research on Dixon and organized the important early exhibition *Maynard Dixon: Images of the Native American* (California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, 1981). In 2008 he contributed curatorial expertise and an essay for the

exhibition, *A Place of Refuge: Maynard Dixon's Arizona* at the Tucson Museum of Art.

His lecture coincides with *Borderlands: Images of the American West*, an exhibition that opened last month at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. The exhibition, which features one of Dixon's largest paintings, reveals turn-of-the-20th-century picturesque landscapes of Western terrain, images of dress and customs of Native American communities and romanticized recounts of cultural conflict which enchanted Eastern American audiences of the time.

Hagerty retired from a dual administrative and teaching position at the University of California, Davis, in 1993, after 22 years of service. He has published numerous books, including *Desert Dreams: The Art and Life of Maynard Dixon* (Gibbs Smith, Publisher: 1993) and *Leading the West: One Hundred Contemporary Painters and Sculptors* (Northland Publishing: 1997). In 1998, *Independent Publisher Magazine* named the latter volume the best art book from a small publisher. Hagerty currently works as both an independent scholar and as a consultant on the art and culture of the American West.

Founded in 1998, the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West is the first such university-based program in the nation. The center is dedicated to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge in the field of American art history as it relates to the western United States. Through its resource holdings, national symposia, lecture series, course offerings and outreach programs, the Russell Center actively engages students and the public in developing a better understanding of, and appreciation for, 19th- and 20th-century Euro-American and Native American artistic traditions. Special focus is given to the art of Charles M. Russell and his contemporaries. For more information on the Russell Center, visit <http://art.ou.edu/russellcenter/>. For accommodations on the basis of disability, call 325-5939.

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Editors: please find attached a scan of Maynard Dixon's painting, *Land of White Mesas*, 1932, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches. Please credit painting as courtesy of The Eugene B. Adkins Collection at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, the University of Oklahoma, Norman and the Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa.