Organizing Institution: National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame

Exhibit Contents: 62 black and white photographs, various sizes 23.5 x 27.5” to 41.5 x 51.5”
1 Introduction Panel and 62 object labels

Exhibit Space required: 230 linear feet required. Exhibit may be downsized upon request.

Rental Fee: $6,500 for 8 weeks, $12,000 for 16 weeks, inquire for other options.

Shipping: National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame will make all shipping arrangements. Venue to pay for round-trip climate controlled shipping.

Insurance: Venue must provide a certificate of insurance.

Security: Moderate, please submit current facility report for review.

Collateral: Audio tour by Barbara Van Cleve, 20 stops in mp3 format with transcript
Docent Guide
Press Kit with images and sample press release
Sample gallery layout
Objects from National Cowgirl Hall of Fame Honorees featured in exhibit available for additional fee

Dates Available: February 2021 onward

Contact: Ashley Henderson Kowalski, Collections Manager
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Hard Twist: Western Ranch Women
Barbara Van Cleve is nationally known for her photographs of western landscapes, ranchers, cowboys, and cattle women. Her heritage is rich with firsthand experience of the cowgirl life. She grew up on her family’s ranch, the Lazy K Bar, founded in 1880 in the Crazy Mountains of Montana. Her first camera was a “Brownie Box,” given to her at age 11 along with a developing kit, and her childhood was spent working and experiencing life on the ranch in the American West and cultivating her interest in photography. Van Cleve taught English Literature and Photography at DePaul University in Chicago, and then became the youngest Dean of Women in the United States. She retired from academia in 1980 to pursue photography full time and had her first major exhibition in the fall of 1985. Her work is in public and private collections in the United States as well as internationally.

Hard Twist documents the lives of ranch women from the northern Rockies to the Mexican border. The work has been described as a celebration of women of the range along with their ranches and the breathtaking landscapes in which they live. The photographs evoke the women’s physical prowess, commitment to family, hard work, emotional maturity, and always a sense of humor. The work challenges the idea of the cowboy as the predominant figure in the West. Van Cleve spent much of 1986-1994 traveling the Rocky Mountain West on horseback gathering images and interviews from women of the West in their natural elements – out on the range, ranch, or at rodeos. From her travels, she created the book titled *Hard Twist: Western Ranch Women* in 1995, from which the exhibition was created. The term “Hard Twist” refers to the old Manila hemp lariat rope that is tightly twisted. Van Cleve recognized that the term can also refer to a small, compact, physically strong person that rarely breaks – much like women of the West.

Additional information can be found at www.barbaravancleve.com

**Women and Ranches featured in the Exhibit**

Cynthia Rigden, Rigden Ranch, Arizona
Polly, Jeanne, and Dee Dee Dickinson, Vermillion Ranch, Colorado
Cynthia May, S Bar S Ranch, Colorado
Jan Youren, Youren Ranch, Idaho
Bobby Brooks Kramer, Kramer Horse Ranch, Montana
Michele Carroccia, Sweet Grass Ranch, Montana
Kelly Kirby, Lazy K Ranch, Montana
Rubby Gobble and Gretchen Sammis, Chase Ranch, New Mexico
Fern Sawyer, Richuela Ranch, New Mexico
Rob Emory, Emory Ranch, New Mexico
Karen Farr, Farr Cattle Co., New Mexico

Linda Mitchell Davis, Mary Bailey Davis, Julia Davis Stafford, and Kim Davis Barmann, CS Ranch, New Mexico
Jane Cain, Bar Cross Ranch, New Mexico
Molly Flagg Knudtsen, Grass Valley Ranch, Nevada
Toni Schutte, Quarter Circle S Ranch, Nevada
Tootie Mitchell, Stake Ranch, Nevada
Sandy Cook Rosenlund, Blue Jay Ranch, Nevada
Ann Holland Daughtery, Gage Holland Ranch, Texas
Jewell McAdoo Lutich, McAddo Ranch, Texas
Nina Robinson, Fairview Ranch, Utah
Melody Harding, Bar Cross Ranch, Wyoming
Selected Images - “Hard Twist” by Barbara Van Cleve

- **Hard Twist**, 1986
  - 31.5 x 25.5”

- **Melody Harding**, Bar Cross Ranch, WY, 1995
  - 51.5 x 41.5”

- **Melody Harding**, Bar Cross Ranch, WY
  - (Feeding Hay the Old Way), 1995
  - 33.5 x 41.5”

- **Jan on Bareback Bronc**, 1986
  - 41.25 x 51.5”

- **Tootie Mitchell**, Stake Ranch, NV
  - (Tootie Mitchell Fencing), 1995
  - 41.5 x 33.5”

- **Farr Cattle Company**, 1993
  - 41.5 x 51.5”
Melody Harding, Bar Cross Ranch, WY
Using a Cream Separator, 1987
31.5 x 21.5”

Molly Flagg Knudtsen, Grass Valley Ranch, NV
(Grass Valley Panorama), 1996
33.5 x 41.5”

Hot Storm, 1993
41.5 x 51.5”

Polly’s Dally - Polly Dickinson
(Full Frontal), 1987
41.5 x 33.5”

Calving Lot Footwear - Dee Dee Dickinson,
Vermillion Ranch, CO, 1995
31.5 x 22.5”

Melody Harding, Bar Cross Ranch, WY
(Chaining up truck to pull out), 1995
33.5 x 41.5”
Mary Bailey Davis, CS Ranch, NM -
Time Out From Spring Branding to
Nurse Daughter, Sara, 1986
31.5 x 25.5”

Cynthia May “pulling” a calf, 1987
33.5 x 41.5”

Michele Carroccia and son, Rocco,
Sweet Grass Ranch, MT--Ranch
Cookout with Friends, 1988
41.5 x 51.5”

Using the Old and the New, Polly Dickinson,
Vermillion Ranch, CO, 1995
21.5 x 31.5”

Capturing a Cow - Dee Dee Dickin-
son and Polly Dickinson, Vermillion
Ranch, CO, 1989
22.5 x 31.5”

Julia Davis Stafford, CS Ranch, NM (Julia
Davis Stafford loading vaccine syringe), 1996
41.5 x 33.5”