



## Hard Twist: Western Ranch Women

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 817-509-8983 ahenderson@cowgirl.net

# HARD TWIST

WESTERN RANCH WOMEN



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BARBARA VAN CLEVE

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](http://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"



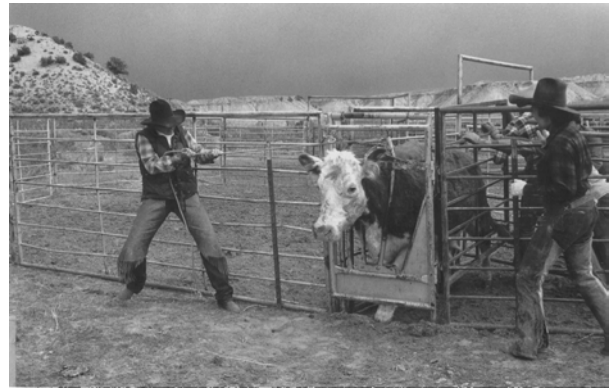
Cynthia May "pulling" a calf, 1987  
33.5 x 41.5"



Mary Bailey Davis, CS Ranch, NM -  
Time Out From Spring Branding to  
Nurse Daughter, Sara, 1986  
31.5 x 25.5"



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



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



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



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

# Exhibit Installation Views



