

Corning museum opens Carl Rungius art exhibition

A major exhibition of the works of Carl Rungius, one of America's foremost big-game painters, opened Sept. 20 at the Rockwell Museum in Corning. Entitled "Majesty and Wilderness: Works by Carl Rungius," the display will remain open through Nov. 3.

This exhibition of 40 paintings and pencil drawings by the German-born wildlife artist charts his development from illustrator to easel painter by juxtaposing his early literal, photographic-style paintings with the freer, blockier, Cezanne-like style Rungius adopted around 1920.

Carl Clemens Moritz Rungius was born near Berlin in 1869. He studied at the Berlin Art School, the Academy of Fine Arts, and the School of Applied Arts in Berlin, where he was schooled in the somber style of Romantic Realism popular in 19th-century Germany. In 1894, Rungius traveled overseas to hunt moose with his uncle in the United States, later to become his adopted country.

A year's stay in Brooklyn allowed Rungius to paint game animals at the Bronx Zoo and the American Museum of Natural History until, inspired by Ira Dodge, a western guide, he decided to move on to Wyoming, where

he established the working methods he would use throughout his life. Rungius developed the technique of propping up freshly shot specimens in various poses and sketching them in great detail from many angles.

After 1920, Rungius and his wife, Louise, spent the summers in the Canadian Rockies, whose scenic grandeur had a noticeable effect on his palette. "In the Bighorn Country" and "Woodland Caribou," both painted in a brighter palette, demonstrate a remarkable increase in color. From 1930 until his death in 1959, Rungius favored broad brushwork, perhaps because of his failing eyesight, and his landscape forms became almost abstract, taking on a dominance not evident in his previous work. Rungius was rewarded for his technical ability and artistry when the National Academy of Design made him an academicians.

The Rockwell Museum displays the largest collection of American Western art in the East. The works in the current show are from the museum's permanent collection as well as from private collections in the United States and Canada. A catalogue of the Rungius exhibit is available from the Museum Shop bookstore.



"Monarchs of the Wilderness," created circa 1901, depicts Carl Rungius' favorite subject, the majestic moose. Rungius' show, which opened at the Rockwell Museum on September 20, will continue through November 3.

Free Rockwell Museum program to explore 'Myths of the West'

A two-day symposium entitled "Myths of the West" will be offered free of charge to the public by the Rockwell Museum in Corning. Symposium sessions will be held in the museum's Rotary Gallery on Oct. 3 and 4.

The symposium will begin Thursday, Oct. 3, at 9:30 a.m., with registration and coffee. At 10 a.m., Dr. Harold Kolb, professor of English and director of American Studies at the University of Virginia, will give the

keynote address on Western myths. At 11 a.m., Michael Duty, director of the Rockwell Museum, will lecture on "The West and the New Eden." A special tour of the museum will be given at 1:45 p.m. by founder Robert F. Rockwell. The 3 p.m. session will feature a classic Western film, "The Searchers," as well as an address on Western film by William Howze, director of special programs at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Tex.

On Friday, Oct. 4, coffee and registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by a talk by Lonn Taylor, deputy assistant director of public programs at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., on "Love Is a Rider: America's Affair with the Cowboy." At 11 a.m., Dr. Philip Thomas, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Wichita State University, Wichita, Kan., will discuss the myth of the

Indian in his presentation entitled "A Clouded Image."

The symposium will conclude with a dinner Friday evening at the cafe in the Corning Glass Center. There will be a charge for the dinner, and guests may make reservations by calling the museum. Those who wish to attend the symposium are advised to call 607/937-5386 for reservations.

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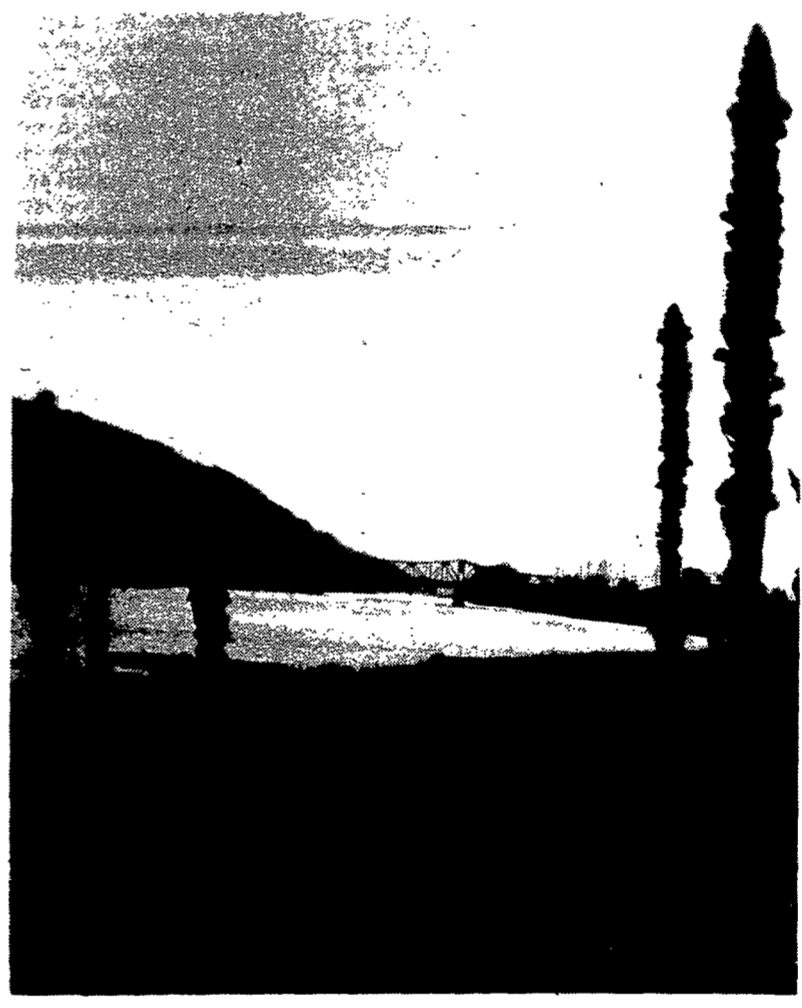
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