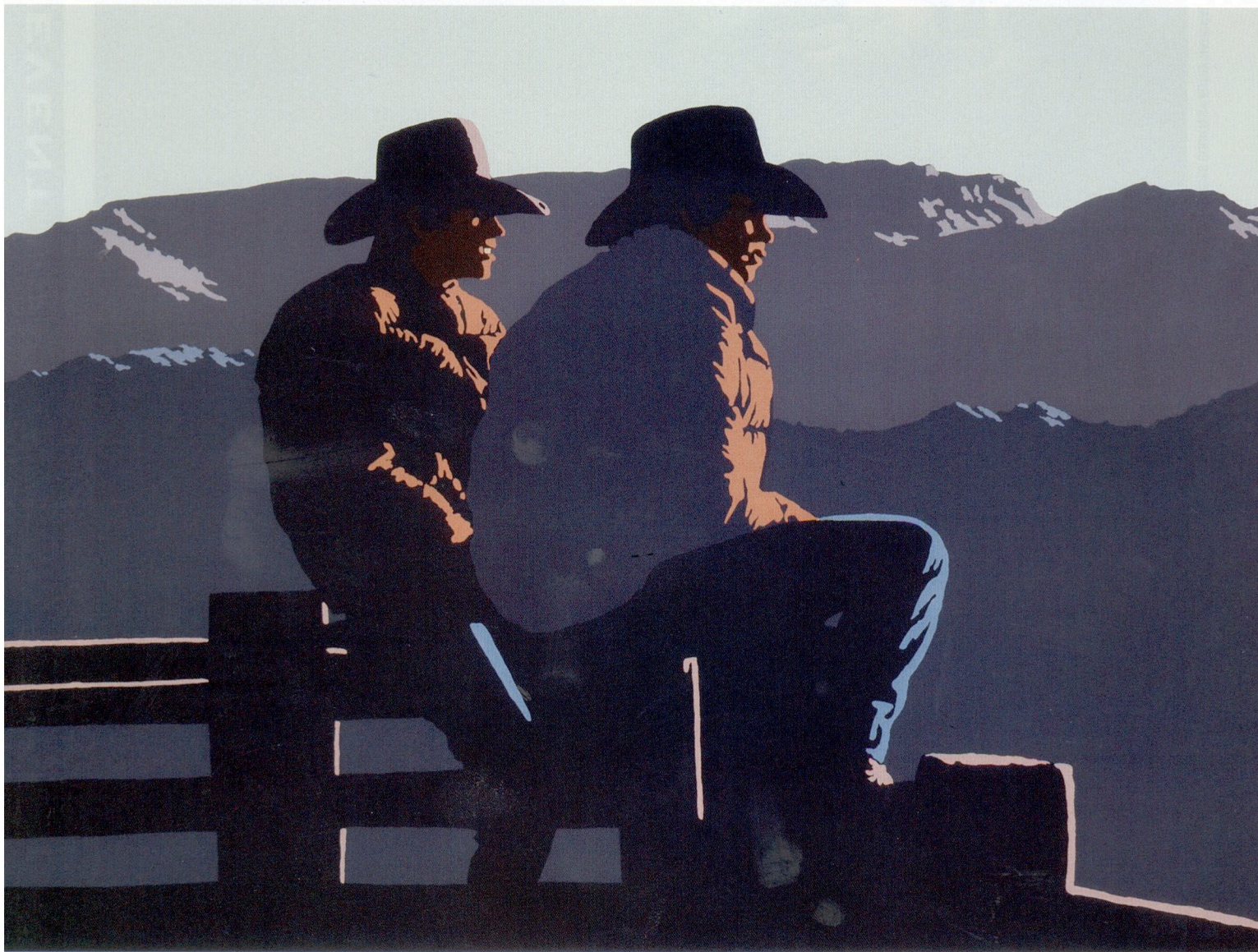


# The Cinematic West

New exhibition explores contemporary interpretations of the West through a unique body of serigraphs by Bill Schenck.

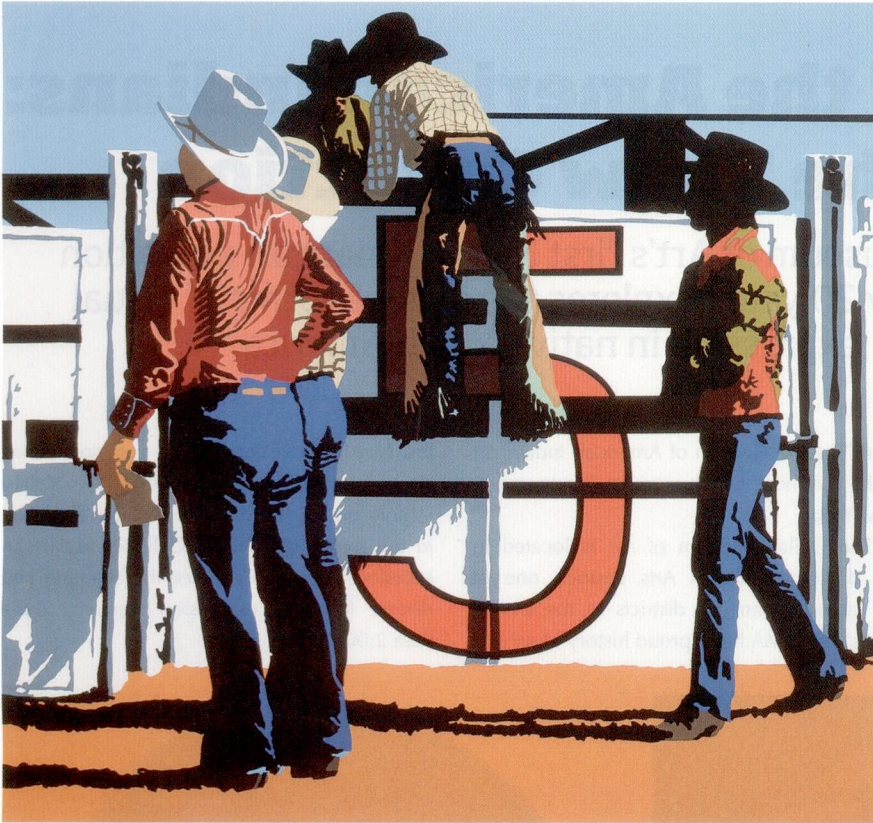


*Sunset in Superior, 1977, serigraph, 31/54, 28¼ x 36¼"*

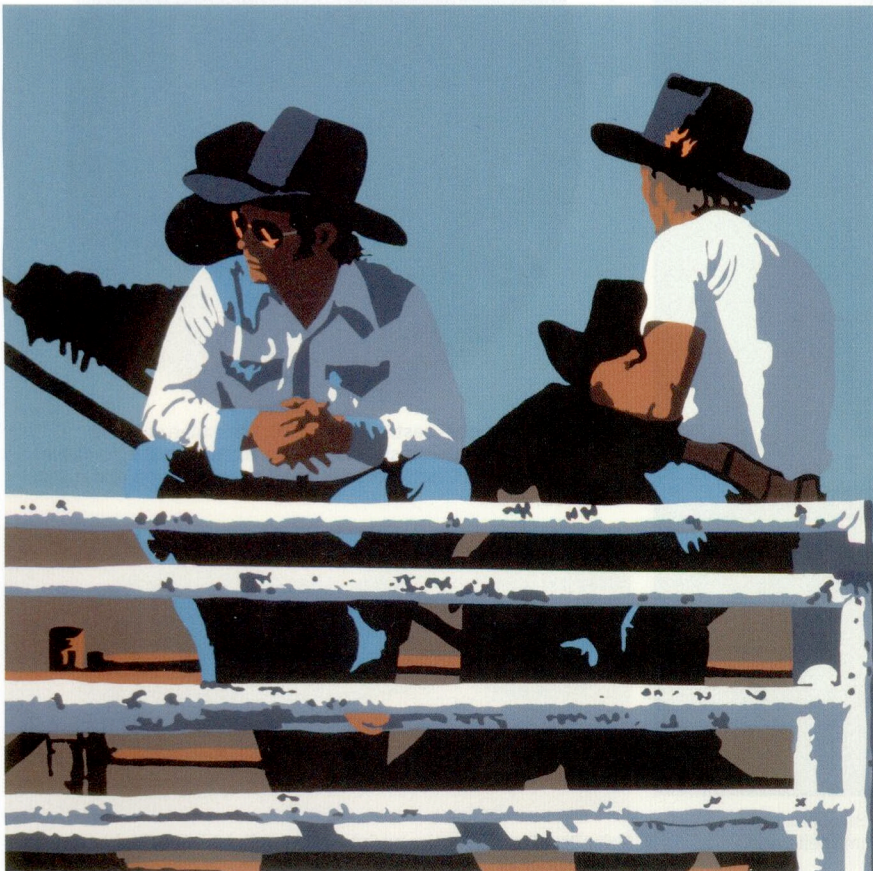
Opening February 12, the Tucson Museum of Art invites viewers to experience aspects of the American West through the work of Bill Schenck. Titled *Bill Schenck: The Serigraphs*, the exhibit includes the often overlooked yet important body of serigraphs Schenck created over a 25-year span between the early 1970s and the mid-1990s.

The Tucson Museum of Art Chief Curator and Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art Julie Sasse wrote an essay on the upcoming exhibition titled *The Cinematic West: The Serigraphs of Bill Schenck*, and within the pages explores the drive, inspiration and importance behind Schenck's work. She writes, "Contemporary painter Bill Schenck

has long examined the American West with a cinematographer's sense of mise-en-scène, a novelist's attention to literary embellishment, a cultural theorist's perspective on the realities of modern Western life, and an artist's eye for dramatic composition, light, and color. His hard-edge oil paintings created over the past four decades have spanned a range of



No. 5, 1980, serigraph, AP, 36¼ x 39"



approaches from the nostalgic and the surreal to Photorealism and conceptualism. However, little attention has been given to a unique body of serigraphs Schenck created over a 25-year span. These silk screen prints reveal the serious, the playful, and the critical aspects of his fascination with the West, an embodiment of a truly American experience."

The serigraphs on show cover a variety of themes, including fictionalized Western histories, Native American subjects, text and image works, and depictions of the modern cowboy and cowgirl.

Sasse writes, "The Technicolor vistas and romanticized cowboys and Indians in Schenck's serigraphs exhibit a passionate reverence for the cinematic Western. His photorealist style lends itself to a contemporary interpretation of the West in a melding of Pop art graphic boldness and 'Warholian' mythmaking. Closely following the stylistic and thematic focus of his paintings, Schenck's serigraphs reveal his directorial approach to image making. To heighten the glamour and drama of his subjects, he pays sharp attention to compositional elements including selection of setting, viewing angle, light, and color."

The Tucson Museum of Art, located in historic downtown Tucson, embraces the traditional with the inventive in its exhibitions and boasts a permanent collection of more than 8,000 works. *Bill Schenck: The Serigraphs* will remain on view at the museum through June 5, 2011. 🌵

### Bill Schenck: The Serigraphs



PHOTO COURTESY TUCSON MUSEUM OF ART

**When:** February 12-June 5, 2011

**Where:** Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701

**Information:** (520) 624-2333,  
[www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org](http://www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org)

Two Guys, 1978, serigraph, AP, 30¼ x 30½"