**June 2019-Press Release;**

**Spirit of the West Museum in Scottsdale, Arizona Presents; Will James: Cowboy Artist and Author original Art and first edition signed Books.**

**Open through August 18, the Will James exhibit shows his paintings, drawings, etchings, books and ephemera.**

**James was born in Montreal in 1892. He left home at 15 to live in the West, where he worked as a cowboy. In addition, James spent time in Hollywood and he was known as “the cowboy who drew pictures.”**

**“It’s often said that because he was an actual working cowboy, he really knew how to depict it and you can see it in his animals (paintings),” Loscher says.**

**James was known as one of the greatest artists, thanks to his Western style. His book “Smoky the Cowhorse” won the 1927 Newbery Medal for children’s literature and was adapted for film three times. He published 26 books, eight of which will be available for sale in the SMoW’s Sue and Robert Karatz Museum Store.**

**James’ “Young Cowboy” (1935) illustrates a young boy taming a wild horse using pen, ink and water color.**

**His oil canvas “Smoky and Clint” (1929) depicts a cowboy and his companion horse on the Old West’s rugged terrain. Viewers will notice the contrast between the dark terrain and the sunny landscape in the background.**

**The Abe Hays Family Will James Collection includes more than 80 original artworks and his 26 books.**

**“He really captured various angles and postures that would be really hard to do unless you had an understanding of the animals,” Loscher says. “These depictions tell stories between the animals and the people, so you can really see the working relationships between the two.”**

**Western Spirit: Scottsdale’s Museum of the West**

**3830 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale, 480.686.9539, scottsdalemuseumwest.org.**

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