Lay of the Land: The Art of Florida’s Cattle Culture

Polasek Museum presents a hand-picked collection representing the top contemporary Florida cowboy artists in the state.

Some 19 different artists are featured in *Lay of the Land*, from the legendary late Buster Kenton and Cush Radebaugh to strong new voices such as Brad Phares and Hobby Campbell. Works encompassing a broad range of art and objects representing the culture of Florida’s 500-year cattle industry are on display, from handmade functional objects like saddles, whips, chaps and spurs to fine art photography, sketches, paintings and sculpture. The exhibition conveys the excitement of the rodeo and cattle drive, the unspoiled beauty of Florida’s native scrub and working landscape, and a culture completely unique to our state.

“It was an exciting adventure visiting these artists at their homes and studios, selecting and discussing art together, many at their respective cattle ranches; and seeing their inspiration and stunning vistas live,” says Polasek Museum Curator Rachel Frisby. “Some of the artwork comes from professional contemporary artists and some of the works have never been exhibited and come from private collections. It’s a rare treat to see this raw talent exhibited together in one space for the first time.”

Presented in collaboration with the Florida Cattlemen’s Association, the objects and art on loan come from members of the Cowboy Artist’s Association of Florida, cowboy “craftsmen” from around the state, private collections and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.
Landscape and Clouds, Brad Phares; oil on canvas

Incoming, Ned Waters, 2012; acrylic

Portrait of Norman Johns, Brad Phares; oil on canvas

Lay of the Land: The Art of Florida’s Cattle Culture
Through April 14
Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens
407.647.6294 • polasek.org