

WITTE MUSEUM

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RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2009

Witte Museum Presents *Don Yena: Painting the South Texas History* Oct. 17, 2009-Jan. 10, 2010

SAN ANTONIO— Donald M. Yena breathes life and meaning into the early days of Texas and the Old West through his detailed narrative paintings that capture the history of South and West Texas. *Don Yena: Painting the South Texas History*, an exhibit of 11 large paintings, will be on view in the **Witte Museum's** Focus Gallery **October 17, 2009** through **January 10, 2010**. The featured works illustrate the history of Texas cattle ranching from its Spanish roots to the discovery of oil in the petroleum sands of South Texas.

Works by Yena are often recognized from years of being chosen for the cover illustrations of the San Antonio Rodeo programs, which have remained popular in South Texas. In 1974 Bell Telephone chose Yena's "Trail Dust and Good Water" for the cover of the annual telephone book.

Yena has spent a lifetime collecting Western historical documents, weapons and artifacts found in private and corporate collections around the United States, which he often references in his works. "My trademarks are attention to detail and historical accuracy," says Yena. "Anyone who looks at one of my paintings can be sure that they're seeing the right saddles, spurs and guns for the period portrayed. My goal has always been to produce good solid, traditional art. In doing so, I'm trying to help preserve an important chapter in our state's and nation's history which though distant, should not be forgotten," he added. Yena has also illustrated historical books including *Battles of Texas* and *Six Flags of Texas*.

Don Yena: Painting the South Texas History is included with museum general admission. For more information call 210.357.1900 or visit www.wittemuseum.org.

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