



For Immediate Release  
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## **Barbara Van Cleve Photography Exhibit opens May 18**

The newest exhibition at the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame is Hard Twist: Western Ranch Women by Master Photographer Barbara Van Cleve, a 1995 Cowgirl Hall of Fame Honoree. This exhibit of over 60 stunning black and white photographs will run from May 18-October 28, 2012.

Van Cleve is nationally known for her photographs of the American West. Van Cleve's own heritage is rich with firsthand experience ranch life. She grew up on her family's ranch, the Lazy K Bar, in Montana. At the young age of 11, her parents gave her a camera and a home developing kit.

Barbara went on to teach English Literature and Photography at DePaul University in Chicago, and then became the youngest Dean of Women in the United States. She retired from academia to pursue photography full time, and has gained international acclaim.

"Hard Twist" refers to the old manila hemp lariat rope that is tightly twisted – Hard Twist. The term can also refer to a small, compact, physically strong person with resilience. This person, like rawhide which expands and stretches when wet and shrinks and tightens when dry, rarely breaks. The ranch women in these photographs are the embodiment of "Hard Twist" – tough and resilient, rarely breaking but above all else an integral part of ranch life.

With this exhibit, the Cowgirl Museum will unveil the use of mobile technology. Visitors will be able to call a number on their cell phones and listen to the photographer explain more about selected photographs. Certain items in the permanent collection will also be included in this new technology. "We hope this new technology will help provide our guests with a more intimate and in-depth experience with these photographs and our permanent collection" said Dr. Diana Vela, Associate Executive Director for Exhibits and Education.

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