



BY BRIAN FLEMING  
The Battalion

It is time to ride the open range at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History.

For the next two months, museum visitors can see the works of photographer David Stockholm and become one with the rugged landscapes of the West and those who know it best — Texas cowboys.

Thomas Lynch, the museum's executive director, said this exhibit is particular to Texas.

"We like to do regionally significant exhibits, and this clearly is one," he said.

Lynch said the skill of the photographer makes this exhibit more than just a collection of pictures.

"The artist is more than just a picture-taker," he said. "He is not just a photographer; he is a true professional that technically does excellent work."

Lynch said aside from his professional interests, Stockholm has a particular interest in cowboys and the West, and his works reflect that.

"The works are all very striking," Lynch said. "They capture true cowboys, not actors, and they are all of different backgrounds. You see just about every kind of cowboy there is."

He said the exhibit is striking and captures much more than just cowboys.

"It covers the people, but also the horses and boots," Lynch said,

"as well as spurs and pictures of them [cowboys] relaxing."

Lynch said this exhibit complements the other works on display at the museum.

"Spotted horses, for example, have been portrayed by the Stone Age people in Europe, like the Magnilians of 15,000 years ago," he said.

"They did a lot of pictures of [spotted] horses [one of which is on display as part of the museum's Stone Age exhibit]. Stockholm's picture of a spotted horse is placed right next to it."

"Really, it shows 15,000 years of continuity through Western and European arts and [the people's] obsession with horses."

Lynch said the museum's current ice-age exhibit and Stockholm's photography exhibit reflect similar lifestyles as well.

"The ice-age hunters of [10,000 years ago] did basically the same thing [as cowboys]," he said. "They are living off of the land and the animals, much as the modern ranchers [do]."

Lynch said the cowboy exhibit covers a variety of interests and will appeal to most people.

"Anyone who is interested in these parts of Texas, ranching, or outdoor animals would truly enjoy this," he said.

Lynch said being familiar with the artist's other work would help those interested in a close analysis of the cowboy exhibit.

"He has a number of books that most likely are available in the

A&M library," he said. "Someone might get more out of these pictures if they had a look at one of his books."

Lynch said this exhibit has affected everybody who has seen it in different ways.

"It is an innocent high looking at these pictures," he said.

"You get older guys in here whose eyes tear up as they see some of these pictures. You can tell they feel the wind and feel they are back there again."

Nivia Maldonado, a museum employee, said the exhibit appeals to children of all ages, as well as the young at heart.

"From a 1-year-old to 99 years old, it is really just a nice exhibit that everyone knows a little bit of," she said.

Maldonado said visitor's reactions to the exhibit have been positive so far.

"Outstanding exhibit and great photographs are some typical responses [from visitors]," Maldonado said. "A lot of people like the pictures of the cowboys sitting in the tubs relaxing after a hard day's work."

Jami Bevan, a museum visitor, said the exhibit is an eye-opening look into the cowboys' world.

"The clarity of the photographs being such a large size was really nice," she said.

"It is a good overall display of cowboy life."

Lynch said this is one of the best photographic exhibits the museum has ever brought in.



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