



26TH ANNUAL

TRAPPINGS

OF TEXAS

MUSEUM OF THE BIG BEND





26th TRAPPINGS
OF TEXAS

FEBRUARY 24 - APRIL 15, 2012

WELCOME



What a year we all celebrated last year, as Trappings of Texas reached its 25th Anniversary. As we build on the momentum that we generated in 2011, the 2012 Trappings of Texas looks to be an even better event. We welcome back all of the wonderful artists and gear-makers who have shown with us for so many years as we welcome new folks to the show. We are pleased to have in the Trappings family the artisans Brody Bolton, Angie Crowe, Stephen Jones, Joyce Ladner, Jan Mapes, Sharon McConnell, Bob Moorhouse, Pee Wee Peebles, John David Sackett, Jason Scull, Keith Seidel, Chessney Sevier, Paul Van Dyke and Troy West.

This year we celebrate a milestone as Leland Hensley celebrates his 10th anniversary as one of our Guest Curators of Gear. It was through Leland's dedication to bringing the best of the best to Trappings of Texas that we have all seen this exhibit becoming increasingly better over the years.

Inside this year's catalog, not only will you learn more about Leland Hensley, but also the story behind the artist and his painting that was chosen to publicize Trappings, *Use Ta Be A Town There*. Also learn a little bit about the history of Sul Ross State University and the importance and significance of ranching to the school in the essay, *Riding For The Bar SR Bar*. And finally, learn about the participants that are exhibited in this year's Trappings of Texas.

We are so glad that you are here to celebrate with us the longest running event of its kind in the country, combining fine Western art with custom cowboy gear. Once again, Welcome to the Family of Trappings of Texas!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Liz Jackson

Director,

Museum of the Big Bend



There Use Ta Be A Town There



Trappings of Texas featured artist, Rygh Westby of Sedona, Arizona, was asked to tell the story behind his painting *There Use Ta Be A Town There*. Here is what he wrote: You hear a lot about “The Vanishing Breed” and the “West That Was.” It is always changing for sure, but it seems to want to maintain its own equilibrium. Towns have grown up here and there, but more than a few have dried up like a tumbleweed. It comforts me to know that there are still places where a young cowboy can look over an empty stretch of country and hear an old man say, “There use ta be a town there.”

Rygh Westby, pronounced *Rig*, has worked on cow outfits—large and small—all over the West from Montana to Arizona—and some of these outfits still pulled a roundup wagon, the horse-drawn kind.



There Use Ta Be A Town There

A self-taught artist, “I never took lessons or painted with anybody—it just wasn’t possible,” Rygh painted at night while using bunkhouses or barns as his studio. While still working for the historic Padlock Ranch in Montana, he made his first sale of a painting through a gallery. Prior to that, Westby traded paintings for doctor bills, partial payments on a saddle, and the like. The sale of that small painting led to the creation of a body of work over the ensuing four decades; a relatively small body of work, though “I never *was* prolific; in fact, I’m downright *slow!*” The body of work, depicting the cowboy, was created in oils, watercolors, pen and ink, and bronze. Most of the subjects for Westby’s work are men he has worked with—and the same is true of the horses he depicts.

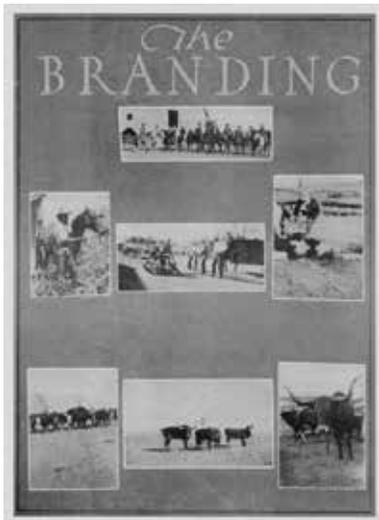
Westby’s art is in private and museum collections, including a piece *Ain’t A Horse That Can’t Be Rode*, selected by the late Mr. Soichiro Honda for the Honda Motor Company Corporate Collection; the Buffalo Bill Museum, Golden, Colorado; Museum of the Big Bend, Alpine, Texas; Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, Montana; and the Bradford Brinton Museum in Big Horn, Wyoming. Rygh’s work can also be found in the collections of other artists—a high compliment, indeed.

Westby’s work has appeared on the cover of the *Western Horseman* six times; on the November 2000 cover of *Western Horesman*, he appeared as the *subject* of a painting by the renowned Western artist, James Bama. The September 1983 *Western Horseman* issue included both the cover and a feature article by photo journalist, Kurt Markus, documenting the man and the art, “A Western Artist of His Own School.” Westby also illustrated singer, Ian Tyson’s 1994 book, *I Never Sold My Saddle*.



HISTORY

Riding for the Bar SR Bar



*The Sage, Archives of the Big Bend, Bryan
Wildenthal Memorial Library, Sul Ross State
University, Alpine, Texas*

Trappings of Texas, with its mission of honoring and celebrating the cowboy, is a perfect fit with Sul Ross State University. In 1921, the design for the Bar SR Bar, the brand of the school was created. It was originally fashioned to decorate place cards for a picnic lunch planned by the women of a physical education class. Designed by math students, the Bar SR Bar was chosen because of its close resemblance to a cattle brand. On January 7, 1921, the Bar SR Bar was registered as a cattle brand in Brewster County.

It was during this period that the idea of a student scholarship fund be created for students in need of financial assistance. Numerous ranchers donated calves for the fund drive. These calves were branded with the Bar SR Bar brand and then were fattened and sold, adding much needed monies to the fund.

In 1925, the students decided to build a huge replica of their school's emblem on the side of Hancock Hill, directly behind the school. On April 1, under the direction of the sophomore class, students began the process of hauling rocks up the side of the hill and placing the stones to create the Bar SR Bar. Work was completed on April 11 when students whitewashed the stones. Upon completion, the Bar SR Bar on the side of Hancock Hill measured an impressive 75 feet wide by 75 feet high.

Riding for the Bar SR Bar



The Alpine Avalanche, Archives of the Big Bend

Beginning in 1959 the Bar SR Bar was illuminated during Homecoming week. Students used butane torches to ignite one-pound coffee cans that were filled with sawdust and kerosene! Every fall the tradition continues with the whitewashing of the stones and the Bar SR Bar being illuminated with ground level kerosene lamps.

The Bar SR Bar on the side of Hancock Hill has only had one misadventure. One evening in late July of 1951, a group of Texas A&M geology students who were staying on campus crept up the hill. In the morning, Sul Ross students were stunned to find their beloved Bar SR Bar transformed to Bar AM Bar. The culprits were quickly rounded up, served coffee in the Coral, the student center, treated to several Sul Ross yells, the singing of the Sul Ross Alma Mater and then serenaded by the Sul Ross band with the playing of "The Eyes of Texas." The Aggies, to the accompaniment of the band, quickly undid the previous night's work and restored the Bar SR Bar.



Alpine Avalanche, Archives of the Big Bend

The Bar SR Bar remains one of the school's most distinctive emblems and reminds all of the importance and generosity of the area's ranching families which helped to create Sul Ross State University.

Leland Hensley

10 Years and Going Strong with Trappings of Texas



A very young Leland



Leland in 1986

After celebrating the 25th anniversary of Trappings of Texas in 2011, it occurred to us that we were looking at an equally important milestone in the history of Trappings. Leland Hensley came on board as Guest Curator of Gear in 2001. In honor of Leland's ten years of commitment to Trappings of Texas and the Museum of the Big Bend, we thought you would like to know a little bit more about him than what is in his official biography.

Leland is the youngest of three children, the oldest is his brother Neilan and the middle child is his sister Yvonne. He was born in Canyon, Texas, to his parents Marion and Gayle. Marion worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone and the family moved quite often as Leland grew up. They eventually settled in Burleson, Texas, where Leland entered the second grade. His mother remembered that Leland was, "An adventure in himself." He was known as a thoughtful and patient child and remains so today. Gayle spoke of how very interested he was in animals especially snakes. According to her he would spend hours reading about reptiles. At one point, he received a coachwhip snake that he wore wrapped around him. Gayle also recalled that, "Leland would wait for the mailman and he would have a crow sitting on top of his head or on his shoulder."

While living in Burleson, Leland competed in baseball and football, but his greatest pleasure was visiting his Grandfather and Grandmother Hensley in the nearby town of Walnut Springs. There Leland listened to his grandparents' stories, worked their cattle and trapped.

Leland Hensley

10 Years and Going Strong with Trappings of Texas



*Leland and Latham in
Marathon*



*Leland and TCAA braiders at
the National Cowboy and West-
ern Heritage Museum, Okla-
homa City, Oklahoma
Left to right: Leland, Armando
Deferrari, Mike Beaver, Nate
Wald and Pablo Lozano*

Upon graduation from high school in 1981, Leland moved to Alpine, Texas, to attend Sul Ross State University to pursue a degree in Range Management. While attending school, Leland day worked on ranches and guided horseback trips in Big Bend National Park for the Carter family. In addition he began hanging out at Big Bend Saddlery which eventually led to him working there. Sitting side by side with owner Gary Dunshee, Leland built his very first saddle which he still has. It was during this time that Leland began braiding.

With his college degree in hand, after graduating in 1985, Leland managed a ranch in north-central Texas for four years. He then moved to Kansas and worked at a saddle shop and eventually moved to Clifton, Texas, where he purchased a boot and saddle shop. He lived in Clifton for five years. As he worked on orders for his business, he began refining his skills and techniques for building fine quality rawhide braided gear.

Even though Leland was a long way from the Big Bend area, he would bump into Gary Dunshee from time to time at shows. Gary was always encouraging Leland to return, which he did in 1994. Leland moved to Marathon, where he outfitted a shop where worked on orders for Big Bend Saddlery. Leland and his son, Latham moved to Meridian, Texas, five years ago which they call home.

Leland continues to braid in his shop out of his home and is an active member of the TCAA, Traditional Cowboy Arts Association. And he remains committed to Trappings of Texas and the Museum of the Big Bend.



GUEST CURATORS



Wayne Baize

Wayne Baize has always been interested in art since his school days in Hamlin, Texas. After graduating from high school, he set up a drawing table in Luskey's Western Store in Abilene, where he produced portraits of people and horses. His first one-man show at the Stephenville Savings and Loan in 1970 provided him with enough money to pursue his art full time. In the early 1970s Baize began making trips to the Davis Mountains near Fort Davis, Texas to take photographs on the o6 Ranch and other ranches in the area for reference. He eventually bought property in the Davis Mountains from the Largent family and there met his future wife, Ellen.

By the late 1980s, Baize began working with oils and, with the encouragement of Cowboy Artist of America, Tom Ryan, made the transition into the world of oil paintings. In 1995, Baize was invited to become a member of the Cowboy Artists of America. He has served as Director, Vice President and President of the organization.

Baize has won numerous awards including the silver medal award for drawings in the 1997 Cowboy Artist Show in Phoenix, Arizona, and the 2004 American Cowboy Cultural Award. He has served as Guest Curator of Art for Trappings of Texas since 2008.



Mike Capron

Mike Capron was born in Midland, Texas on January 19, 1945 and he has spent almost his entire life living in the Southwest. He and his wife, Anne have lived and worked on ranches in West Texas since he was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps in 1968. Capron has blended his family, life and religion into a daily practice that has sent him many chances to share his art in books, magazines, art shows, museums and private collections. Capron works in oils, pastels, watercolor, and pen and ink and is known for his portraits, action illustrations, landscapes and animals of the Southwest.

Most recently, Capron's works were featured at the Cattle Raisers Museum in Fort Worth in the exhibit "We Pointed Them North." He has served as Guest Curator of Art for Trappings of Texas since 2008.





GUEST CURATORS



Wilson Capron

Wilson Capron grew up in far West Texas where his family was involved in the ranching industry. During Wilson's high school years in Fort Davis, the Capron family ranched 150,000 acres with about 1,000 mother cows.

After high school, Capron attended college at Tarleton State University for two years before moving to Lone Oak, Texas, where he lived with bit and spur maker Greg Darnall and his family for five years. Capron would eventually graduate from Texas A & M University-Commerce with a degree in Ag-Business. While living with Darnall, Capron apprenticed under him to learn the art of engraving and the function of the bridle bit. Capron's unique designs stem from the influence of Darnall coupled with the knowledge handed down to him by his artist/cowboy father, Mike Capron.



In 2004, Capron was elected into the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association and he has been awarded Best of Show Metal Work in 2001, 2005 and 2009 at Trappings of Texas.

He became a Guest Curator of Gear for Trappings of Texas in 2008. Capron lives in Midland, Texas, with his wife Katy and their two daughters.



Leland Hensley

Leland Hensley was born and raised in Texas and came to far West Texas to enroll in the Range Management program at Sul Ross State University. While attending Sul Ross, he worked at Big Bend Saddlery. After graduating in 1985 with a bachelor degree in Range Management, he worked as a ranch manager and in his spare time began to hone his braiding skills. After leaving the ranch, Hensley worked at Big Bend Saddlery from 1994 through 2007, as he continued to push himself to improve his braiding skills. Each step of the way, Hensley remained true to his goal of producing a quality and functional piece of gear.

Due to this guiding personal philosophy he was elected into the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association in 2001. In 2003, he was acknowledged as "Braider of the Year" by the Academy of Western Artists. Hensley has had his work exhibited at Sun Valley, Idaho, Western Folklife Center Nevada, High Noon Western Americana Auction, Mesa, Arizona, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and The Trappings of Texas Alpine, Texas, for the last 17 years. He has served as Guest Curator of Gear for Trappings of Texas since 2002.



GUEST CURATORS



John Willemsma

John Willemsma has been building saddles for over thirty years. Willemsma spent time day working on area ranches and understood the importance of a functional and fitted saddle. He opened his shop, LJ Saddlery, in the town of Guthrie, Oklahoma, in 1986 where he produces custom saddles for working cowboys and horsemen and women alike. He has studied with the great craftsmen Don King, Dale Harwood and Chuck Stormes. In addition he studied the early saddleries of Visalia, Hamley and Ray Holes to round out his education.

Willemsma has pursued higher standards in every saddle that he builds and this attention to quality and detail was most recently recognized by the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association that inducted him as a member in 2009. In 2008, he had received the Best of Show award for Saddle and Leatherwork at Trappings of Texas and in 2010 was acknowledged as “Saddlemaker of the Year” by the Academy of Western Artists. His saddles have been displayed at many venues including the Coconino Center for the Arts, Flagstaff, Arizona; Vaquero’s Day, Santa Ynez, California; Oklahoma Folklife Festival, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Elko, Nevada

Willemsma was selected as a Guest Curator of Gear for Trappings of Texas in 2010.



Larry Abbott Dickens, Texas

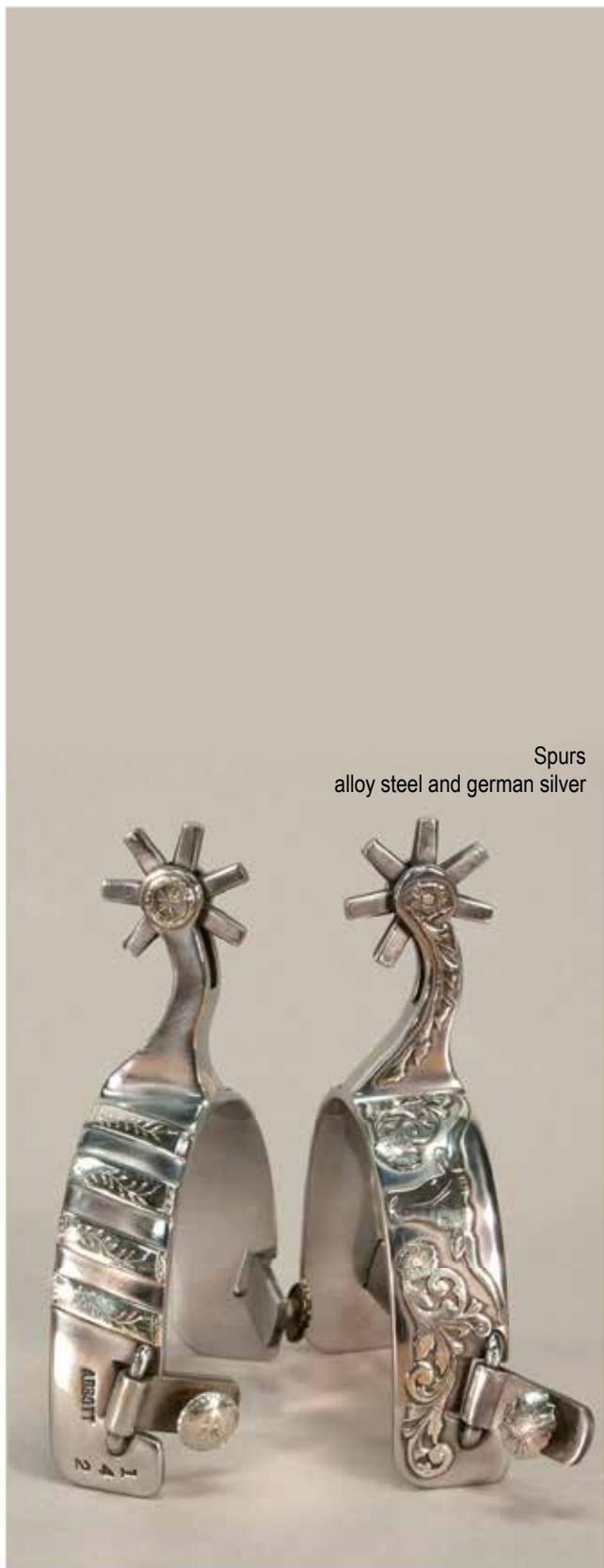


Larry Abbott was born in Stonewall County, Texas, moved to New Mexico and returned to Aspermont, Texas, to attend high school. He acquired his love for horses as a young boy from his dad and uncles and spent his summers on the back of a horse. Since then, Abbott has worked on ranches big and small throughout West Texas and South Dakota.

Abbott acquired his interest in bit and spur making around 1978. After visiting Adolph Bayers shop several times he decided to build a bit himself. After a period of trial and error he began taking a few orders. Gearmaker Jerry Cates invited Abbott to come to his shop for the day and watch him work. Cates' influence, advice and workmanship were a great asset.

Throughout the years, Abbott has fine tuned his products for the working cowboy. His personal experience of riding many hours in the saddle, working cattle and knowing what tool works best and when, has brought him to where he is today.

Abbott is a founding member of the International Guild of Bit and Spur Makers.



Spurs
alloy steel and german silver

Mike Anders

San Angelo, Texas



In 1970, Mike Anders was born in Lovington, New Mexico, and shortly thereafter he and his family moved to San Angelo, Texas where he grew up. When Mike graduated from high school, he worked at sale barns and on several area ranches. At this time he also built his own saddle.

In 1992, Anders went to work at a saddle shop and began his apprenticeship as a strap hand. Within a year he was one of three saddle makers in the shop. Through the years of saddle making Mike met a number of bit and spur makers, and he decided to learn this craft, as well.

In the spring of 2002, he began to teach himself how to make bits and spurs and has continued to refine his craft. Along the way, Mike has received advice and guidance from other makers who were a tremendous help to him.



Bit
full scroll
mounted in nickel silver

Brian Asher Snyder, Texas



Brian Asher was raised in the Fort Worth, Texas, area and graduated from Richland High School in 1978. He has worked or day-worked on some of Texas's largest and most prestigious ranches all his adult life. Although he has been drawing from an early age, it wasn't until 1992 that he decided to take his work more seriously. On days he isn't working for area ranches, Brian draws and has limited edition prints made from his originals.

Brian still day-works and many times carries his camera with him to take pictures and get ideas for future works. He resides near Snyder, Texas, with his wife Karen and their six children.



Brandin' Pit Dust
pencil

Wayne Baize Fort Davis, Texas

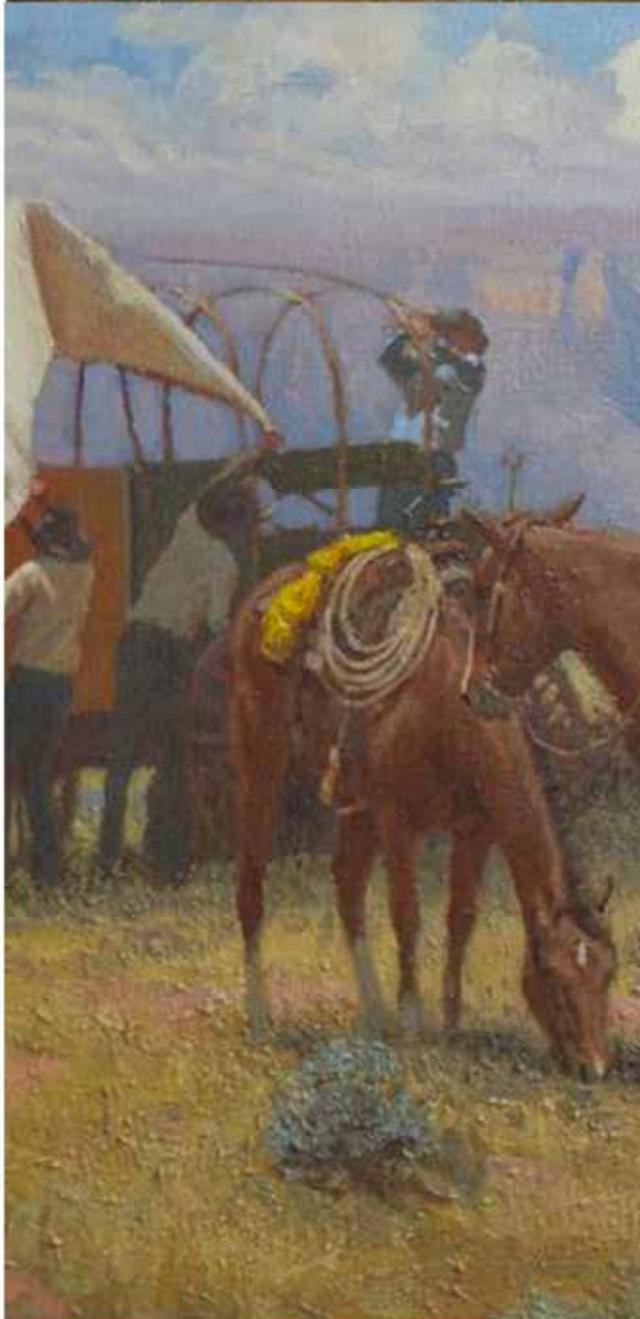


By the age of twelve, Wayne Baize's talent prompted his parents to arrange for private art lessons. After high school, he worked days in a lumberyard and feed-store and spent his nights refining his artistic talents. In 1968, Wayne met artist Tom Ryan who invited him to attend the CA, Cowboy Artists of America, annual art show. Ever since then Tom became Baize's friend and life-long mentor. In 1995, Baize was invited to become a member of the CA and has since served as Director, Vice President and President of the organization.

Wayne Baize depicts the contemporary cowboy and gives honor to the cowboy way of life in his works. His work is shown at Midland Gallery in Midland, Texas, and Trailside Galleries in Jackson, Wyoming, and Scottsdale, Arizona.

Wayne and his wife Ellen live on their small ranch outside of Fort Davis, Texas, and raise registered Hereford cattle.

Home Sweet Home
oil on canvas



Vern Ballantyne

Unity, Canada



Vern Ballantyne is an accomplished rawhide braider. He not only makes gear for others, he uses it himself. The strength and functional beauty that Vern achieves is apparent in every bosal, quirt or headstall he produces.

Most of his gear is made in the cold, long winter months on his family ranch, where he runs one-hundred mother cows. He also starts colts and occasionally day-works. Ballantyne and his wife Bonnie have two children, Will and Kate.



Hobbles
braided rawhide

Keith Basso
Heber, Arizona



Keith Basso and his wife, Gayle, own a ranch in east-central Arizona, where he has braided rawhide horse gear since 1995. Though largely self-taught, he has received valuable instruction from Leland Hensley and Nate Wald.

Basso's works have been exhibited in the Trappings of the American West, at the Phippen Museum, Prescott, Arizona, the ProRodeo Hall Of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston, Texas, Elko Folklife Museum in Elko, Nevada and at other venues in New Mexico and Arizona. Several of his pieces are in private collections.

Reata
braided rawhide
65 foot long



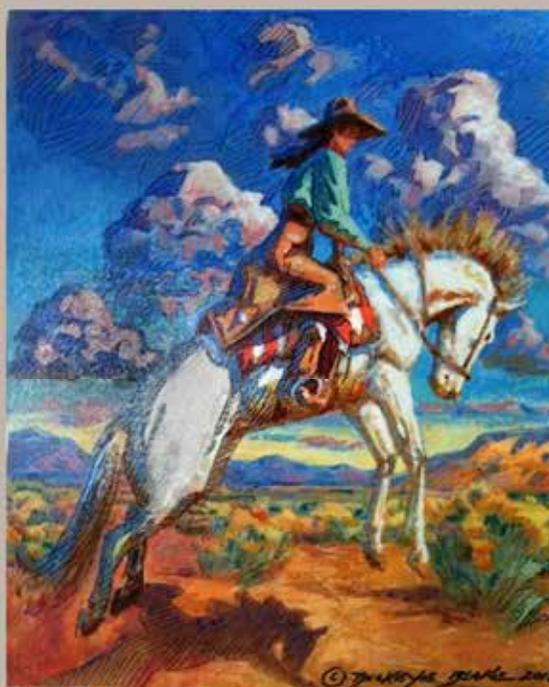
Buckeye Blake Weatherford, Texas



Buckeye Blake is so thorough a Westerner, that it would never occur to anyone to mention it to him. His father was a rodeo cowboy who eventually worked for the Arizona Border Patrol, and his great-grandfather, S. Coke Blake, was one of the pioneer breeders of Quarter Horses. Blake has lived in Nevada, California, Montana, Idaho and now Texas. In the West, there is no livelier testimonial to regional, figurative expression than the art of Buckeye.

Blake's work is united with a technique that exudes a kinetic vitality, a compelling wit and an unfettered whimsical style. Blake's paintings, sculptures and decorative work are transfused with life.

Buckeye's work has been shown at the Buffalo Bill Art Show and Sale at Cody, Wyoming, and in the Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado. He is represented by Big Horn Galleries, Cody, Wyoming.



Shadow Dancer
watercolor with pen and ink

Teal Blake

Weatherford, Texas



Teal Blake grew up in Montana, on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, surrounded by ranching country. Growing up in his father's studio looking at C.M. Russell paintings and reading Will James books, it was hard not to pick up a pencil and start capturing his own vision of cowboys and the American West.

Teal has always liked to show what makes the traditional West; cowboys not always clean shaven, shirts not always creased and their horse's manes not always long. Bucking horses have always been a favorite for Blake. For him they represent the timeless battle between man and animal. Since he has been immersed in the West throughout his life, photographing as well as working alongside his friends, he feels that he can accurately represent the cowboy way life in his paintings.

Blake has received numerous awards for his watercolors including best of show in 2008 and 2009 at the Trappings of the American West at the Phippen Museum in Prescott, Arizona, and in 2010 he received the Joel Beeler CAA Foundation Award. His work was recently seen in the We Pointed Them North sale and exhibit at the Cattle Raisers Museum in Fort Worth, Texas

Teal and his wife Joncee live on their ranch outside of Weatherford.



Givin'r Hell
watercolor

Brody Bolton

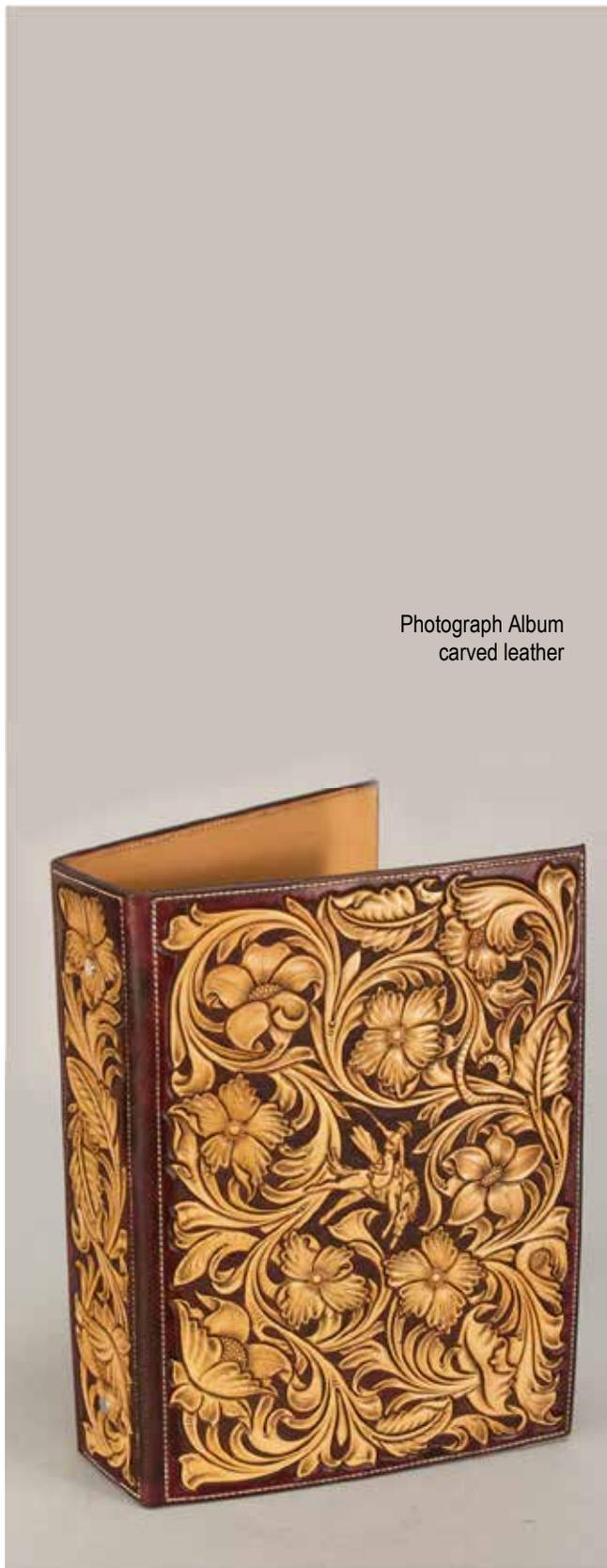
Odessa, Texas



Brody Bolton was born and raised in Odessa, Texas, on the Ratliff Ranch. He has ridden bulls and saddle bronc horses professionally for thirteen years. Brody lived in France for a year when his father retired from riding bulls and worked at Euro Disney. He has had the opportunity to travel to many other countries as well. Along with his passion for rodeo, Brody became interested in leatherwork.

For the past six years, he has been working with leather and is focused on advancing his knowledge, skill and technique in working with leather in the coming years.

Photograph Album
carved leather



Jim Bones Alpine, Texas

Jim Bones enrolled at the University of Texas in 1962 with the intention of studying aerospace engineering, took a semester of physics, then switched to geology, with Dr. W. R. Muehlberger. Toward the end of college, he switched to fine arts, primarily to study with and work for Russell Lee, known for his large-format black and white documentary photography of the Dust Bowl era.

Bones received a one year Corporation For Public Broadcasting Fellowship at KERA in Dallas in 1970 where he produced many environmental films including the acclaimed 8-part series *Images and Memories*. In 1972-73, he spent a year at the Dobie-Paisano Ranch, near Austin and the photographs he took during his residency were published in collaboration with John Graves, in 1975 as *Texas Heartland: A Hill Country Year*.

From 1975 to 1978 he worked in Santa Fe, New Mexico, as printing assistant to Eliot Porter, who was widely respected for his large-format colorwork with nature.

Bones' other books include *Texas West of the Pecos*, 1981, *Rio Grande Mountains to the Sea*, 1985 and *Texas Images of the Landscape*, 1986.



Horse Heads Crossing
giclee print

Randy Butters Homer, Michigan



Randy Butters, a life-long resident of Homer, Michigan, has farmed his entire life. Upon his marriage to Brenda Rodgers of Campo, Colorado, Randy was introduced to bits and spurs through his father-in-law, Clyde Rodgers. Randy's first set of spurs, made out of a tire iron, were made during a cold Michigan winter in the 1980s.

Inspired by Ray Anderson, Erlon Shirley, Jerry Cates and Billy Klapper because of the quality of their work, Randy began making spurs and bits in 1985. Randy next studied the Texas legends such as McChesney and the Kelly Brothers and eventually mastered the detailed and ornate inlaid California styles of G.S. Garcia and others.

Randy was honored by The Academy of Western Artists as the 2005 National Spurmaker of the Year. His work has been shown at the High Noon Show and Auction in Mesa, Arizona, in Brian Lebel's Old West Show and Auction, Denver, Colorado, and at shows hosted by the National Bit, Spur and Saddle Collectors Association

Randy continues to work on the family farm where he grew up. He raises feeder steers each year and grows hay for area livestock producers. He also enjoys taking care of the family's horse, Jack, and his small herd of Longhorns.



Spurs
sterling silver overlay



Mike Capron Midland, Texas



Mike Capron was born on January 19, 1945. He graduated from high school in 1962 and became interested in three areas of life: riding, roping and painting. In pursuit of his goals, Mike worked on ranches in southern New Mexico and West Texas until 1965 when he joined the USMC. He returned to civilian life in 1968 and upon returning to Texas in 1969, met and married Anne and she joined him in the pursuit of his old dreams.

For Mike riding is always a joy and is his favorite place to exercise, meditate and study his painting subjects. Roping never ceases to amaze him and for Mike all forms of rope magic are infatuating. In speaking of his art, Capron sees life as painting and painting as life. He believes that sharing one's life and art are what takes you places that are worth telling about later.

Mike and Anne have two children, Liz and Wilson. Wilson and his wife Katy and their daughters, Macy and Emmy, along with Mike and Anne live in Midland at the Capron-Templeton Compound.

Capron's works have been exhibited in Trappings of Texas, at the Mountain Oyster Club, Tucson, Arizona and in the show We Pointed Them North at the Cattle Raisers Museum, Fort Worth, Texas.



No Fence to Tangle Up In
monochrome oil

Wilson Capron Midland, Texas



Wilson Capron grew up on ranches in West Texas and has studied horsemanship and roping since his youth. In 1996, Wilson began working for a friend's father, legendary gear builder Greg Darnall. Wilson lived with the Darnall family while attending Texas A&M University-Commerce, where he earned an Ag-Business degree. At first, gear building was a way to earn money for rodeo fees, but Greg's encouragement for Wilson to learn engraving sparked a passion for craftsmanship that continues today. As Wilson developed his engraving talent, he found guidance in artistic principles from his father, cowboy painter Mike Capron. In 1999, Wilson launched his own business.

Capron plans out on paper the intricate overlay engravings that define his contemporary interpretation of Texas- and California-style bits and spurs. Wilson has exhibited in the annual Trappings of Texas sale and exhibit in Alpine, Texas, since 1999 and in the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association member show in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, since 2005. He is represented by the Claggett/Rey Gallery in Vail, Colorado.

Wilson and his wife Katy, who helps manage his business, and their daughters Macy and Emmy live in Midland, Texas.



Shank Bit
sterling silver and steel
relief engraving in the steel
hand forged mouthpiece

Tyler Crow

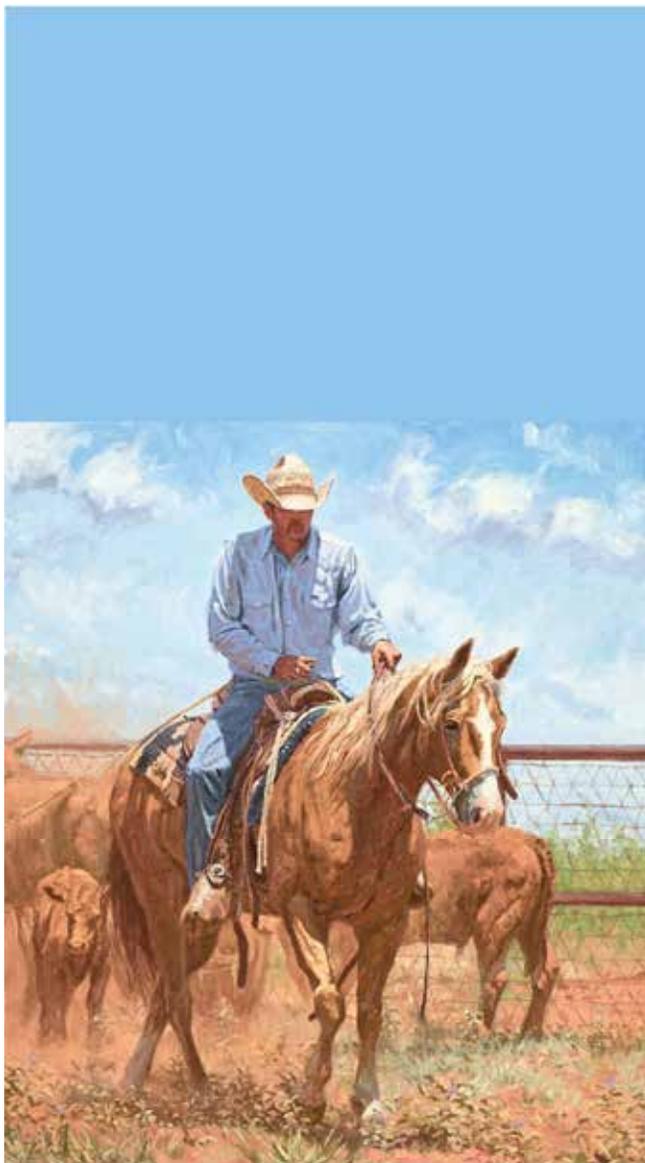
Apache, Oklahoma



Tyler Crow grew up in the small town of Apache, Oklahoma. A 2007 graduate of Apache High School, Crow has always had paper and pencil with him drawing horses. While still in high school, he won the Frank Lucas Congressional Art Contest and his work was on exhibit at the U.S. Capitol. During his senior year he entered a pencil drawing in the Oklahoma Youth Expo at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Winning Reserve Best of Show and a scholarship gave him a chance to attend a weeklong summer painting workshop co-taught by Bruce Greene and Martin Grelle.

Since their first meeting, Crow has attended three more painting workshops co-taught by Greene and Grelle. In April 2010, he attended a Cowboy Artist workshop taught by Greene at the Scottsdale Artists School in Arizona. These workshops have transformed Tyler from a sketch artist to a painter creating works that reflect his passion for cowboys and horses.

In Crow's two most recent shows, the Bosque Arts Classic in Clifton, Texas, and Small Works, Great Wonders, at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, he received the People's Choice Award. In addition, his work has been exhibited at the High Noon Show and Auction in Mesa, Arizona.



Pure Pleasure
oil on canvas

Angie Crowe Blanco, Texas



Angie Crowe began weaving around 1994. She had travelled in New Mexico and Colorado and explored Navajo and Rio Grande weaving traditions, especially the bold expression of colors and geometric patterns that reflect nature and a spiritual world. During her travels, she met and spent time with two remarkable master weavers, Rachel Brown and Eppie Archuleta, both of whom inspired her to begin weaving.

Angie and her husband bought a farm in central Texas seventeen years ago and there they raise Karakul sheep whose wool she uses in her weavings. Ancient native traditions have informed her rug and saddle blanket designs. However, contemporary designs are also an important element of her work. She frequently chooses her wool colors first, both natural and dyed, and then she starts experimenting with various design ideas at the loom.

Hand Woven Saddle Blanket
Chief Style with Turquoise
karakul sheep wool



Armando Deferrari

Pergamino, Argentina



Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1953 Armando Deferrari began braiding in the 1970s while attending college. Upon graduation in 1975, he began his career as a veterinarian in Tandil, where he befriended traditional rawhide braiders and silversmiths who created tools for the gaucho trade. Deferrari's passion for the gaucho heritage and traditions motivated him to do extensive research through local museums and private collections of gaucho gear.

Deferrari studied and worked with fellow braiders Maximo Coll and Don Luis Alberto Flores. Later he would study gaucho style silversmithing, eventually becoming a master in the craft to compliment his braided work. Deferrari has traveled as "Ambassador of the Gaucho" culture to many countries, including the U.S., where he has participated in rawhide braiding seminars and workshops.

Most recently he has begun researching vaquero and western heritage culture through the tools of their trade. In 2008, Deferrari became a member of the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association.



TCAA California Style Quirt
braided rawhide
multiple buttons and fid work.
guacho and herringbone buttons.
"Trenza Patria" braid on wrist strap

Vince Donley Parkman, Wyoming



Vince Donley made his first hide and bosal after reading a Bruce Grant book on braiding. What initially began as a pastime, turned into a thirty-five year journey of creating custom braided cowboy horse gear. He has strived to keep the functional traditions of the American cowboy, while accommodating those whom collect or use his gear in the show ring. His refined techniques reflect the various color-interwoven patterns, buttons and embellishments found in his quirts, bosals and rein/romal sets.

Inspired by the braider, Jack Sheppard, Vince has been encouraged by fellow cowboys and saddle makers such as Don Butler, the Don King family and by clinician, Buck Brannaman.

With the resurgence of interest in the skills of the vaquero and the demand for quality hand-made gear, Donley remains focused on his goal of creating affordable horse gear for the everyday cowboy.

Donley's works have been exhibited at Trappings of Texas for many years and at the Western Folklife Center in Elko, Nevada.



Bridle Set
braided rawhide
3/8" underbridle bosal with partial
braided rawhide hanger
16 plait "Hobble Style" adjustable
curb strap
16plait reins and detachable quirt.
top button on quirt swivels.

Vandy Douglas Sheridan, Wyoming

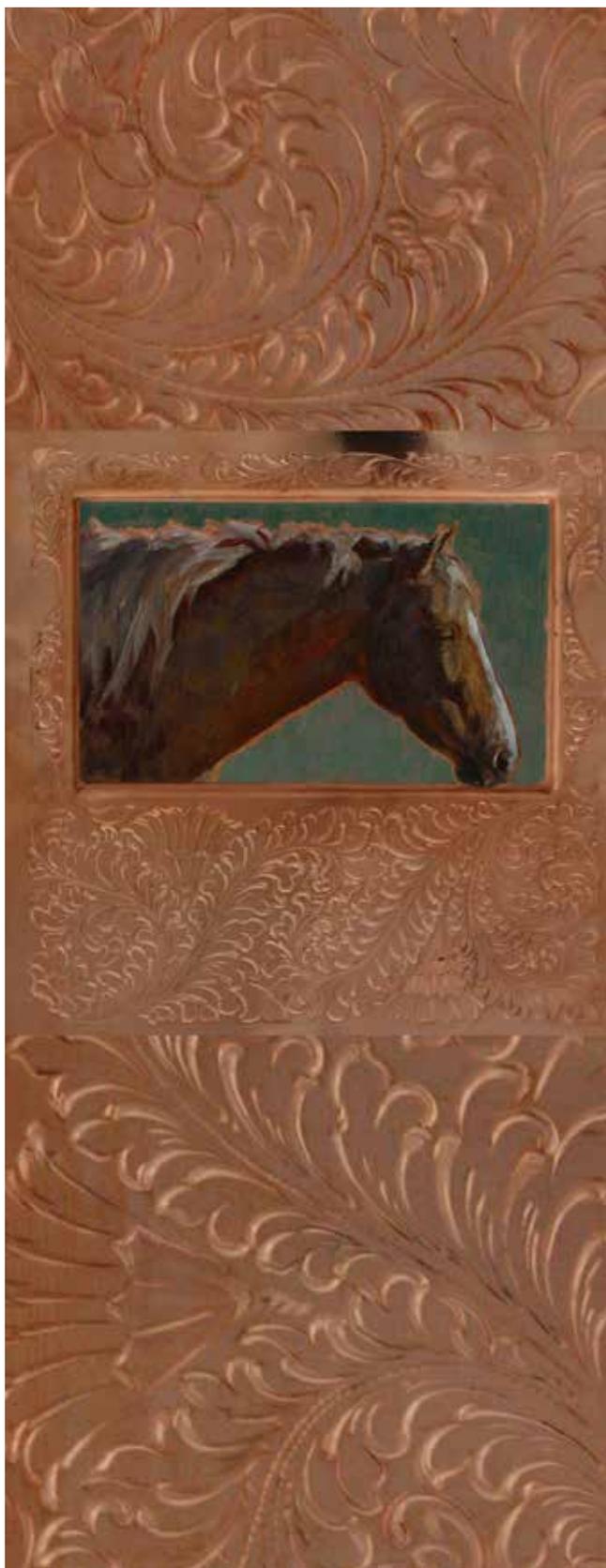


Vandy Douglas enjoys living in the West. She was born and raised in Wyoming, surrounded by the harsh realities and tremendous beauty of a ranching life. Horses, cattle and big land inspire and sustain her, as well as being common themes in her work.

Oil painting has always fascinated her and still does. Everything that goes into her work is joy and she believes that this emotion is seen in the finished product. Douglas says, "My paintings are an extension of the things I find moving in my life now, while echoing my past as well."

Douglas' works have been shown at the Red River Valley Museum Art Exhibit in Vernon, Texas and Breckinridge Fine Art Center 18th Annual Juried Art Show in Breckinridge Texas. In 2009 and 2010, she exhibited in the Heart of the West Invitational Art Show in Lander, Wyoming.

Gold and Copper
oil on hand engraved copper

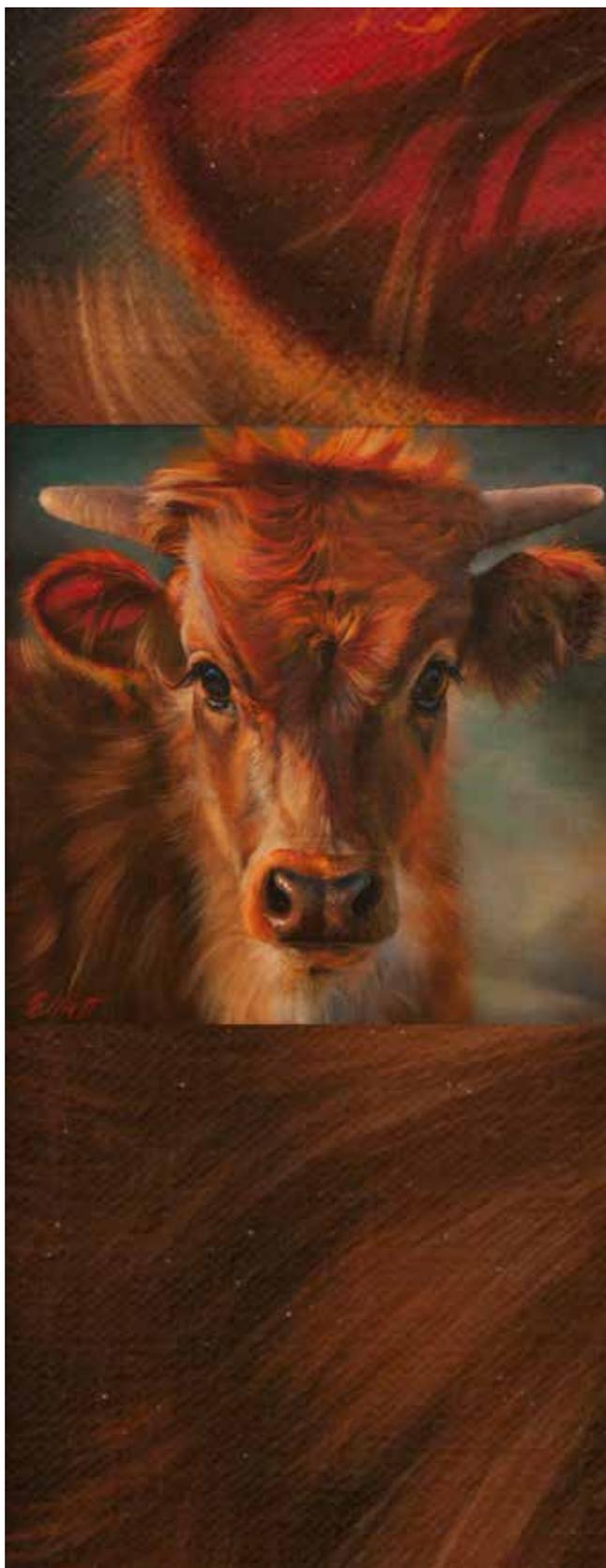


Teresa Elliott
Grapevine, Texas

Teresa Elliott was born in Weatherford, Texas, and raised primarily in St. Louis, Missouri. As a child, she visited her grandfather's farm in Texas which offered her the opportunity to observe and study his cattle. "It became a place and time to know my subjects in their entirety." After receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts, she returned to Texas where she spent twenty-five years as a freelance illustrator in Dallas. As a painter Elliott was largely self taught, however, she had many years of commercial art experience, so her development as an oil painter was fueled by decades of sketching faces, as well as working with the figure.

In 2005 Teresa returned to her fine art roots, dedicating herself exclusively to studio practice. She also returned to a subject that fascinated her since her childhood, the Texas Longhorn. Elliot has received numerous awards for her paintings including the 2009 and 2012 People's Choice, at the Coors Western Art Exhibit in Denver, Colorado; the 2008 Artist's Choice in the Cowgirl Up exhibit at the Desert Caballeros Western Museum, Wickenburg, Arizona, and the 2009 Best of Show at the Night of Artists exhibit at the Briscoe Western Museum, San Antonio, Texas.

Vermillion Calf
oil on linen



A-10 Etcheverry

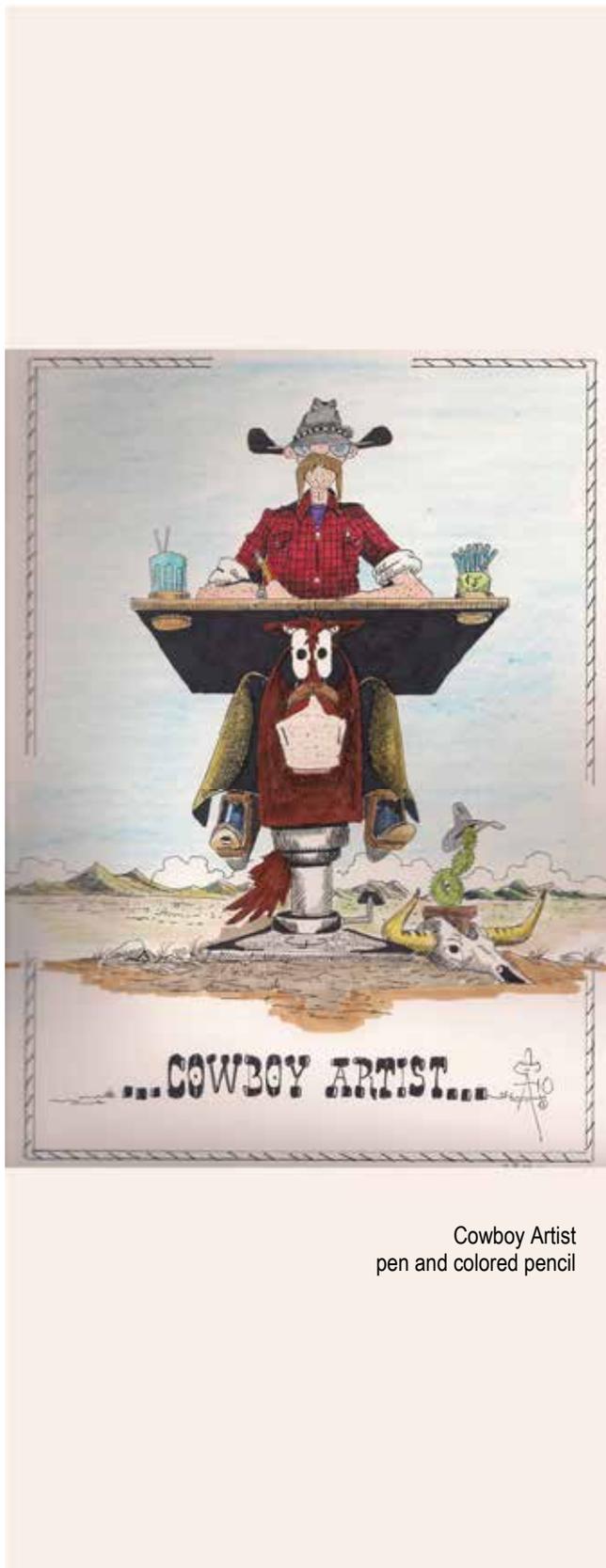
Truth or Consequences, New Mexico



Etienne "A-10" Etcheverry was born in 1950 in Fort Collins, Colorado. A second generation Basque-American, Etienne was raised in West Texas and southeastern New Mexico. Etcheverry's art career began when he was child- his school notebooks and papers were always well illustrated.

A-10 attended New Mexico State University and worked in the potash mines in Carlsbad, New Mexico. It was during this time he began creating calendars using his cartoons as the illustrations. He took a lifetime of Wild West tales of his own and others and turned them into a series of cartoons that still grace the pages of his calendars. In addition, his work has been featured in *New Mexico Magazine* and his illustrations can be seen in books by the popular cowboy writers Carl Brummett, Texas Bill Bender and Baxter Black.

Etcheverry received the 1998 Cowboy Cartoonist of America award from the Academy of Western Artists, and in 1999 he was elected into the Cowboy Cartoonists International Organization.



Cowboy Artist
pen and colored pencil

Curtis Fort Tatum, New Mexico



Curtis Fort was born and raised on a working ranch in Tatum, New Mexico. He intended to follow in his father's footsteps and pursue a ranching life. However while attending New Mexico State University, he began to experiment in clay sculpture and continued to sculpt after his graduation while working as a cowboy on ranches in New Mexico and Texas.

While Fort was working on the Vermejo Ranch his cowboy life and sculpture was the subject of an article in the *Smithsonian Magazine*. Little did he realize the impact that article would have on his career. After continuing to work as a cowboy for several years Fort had to make a decision between being a full-time cowboy or full-time sculptor. That decision has led him down a thirty year path as he tells his story through Western bronze sculpture.

Fort has a large following of collectors all over the world and his work has been advertised in numerous publications. He markets his own works through galleries, private shows, museum exhibitions and juried art shows. In addition, Curtis writes a monthly article about his life as a working cowboy for the *New Mexico Stockman Magazine*.



Winter Meat
bronze



Wayne Franklin Cotulla, Texas



Wayne Franklin grew up in the heart of the south Texas brush country around Cotulla, where he has been a professional silversmith for thirty-five years. His designs for belt buckles and pistol grips are influenced by his ranching heritage and the history of the region. He has made pistol grips for many of the Texas Rangers and others in the law enforcement community. Like a bit and spur maker or a saddle maker, fit and function must come first. His pistol grips are not only attractive in design but must perform properly when the need arises.

He has designed and produces award presentation buckles for many organizations such as the Texas Wildlife Association, the Los Cazadores Deer Contest and La Mesa Ranch Deer Contest.

Four sets of Wayne's pistol grips are on display on Ranger guns at the Texas Ranger Museum in San Antonio. This is the twenty-first year that Franklin has participated in Trappings of Texas.



Ropin' A Steer Pistol Grips
sterling silver

Jerry Galloway

Dumas, Texas



Jerry Galloway became interested in making bits and spurs while working on farms and ranches. While growing up, Jerry loved to work with his hands and enjoyed making something out of nothing. One of the things that Jerry especially enjoyed was modifying gear to suit his needs, and through that process he started making bits and spurs for his own personal use.

In 1993, Galloway began expanding on his engraving techniques and started to develop a unique relationship with both cowboys and collectors. He continued to work on his engraving techniques by attending the Miller Bit and Spur School in Nampa, Idaho, and also through instruction from Benno Heune of Emporia, Kansas. Jerry also spent time refining his craftsmanship with Jeremiah Watt.

Jerry admires the clean construction of the Texas style spur and the Gal Leg shank along with the large rowel, ornate California style. Through the year he has become a master of inlay work and fancy silver engraving. Galloway also enjoys the challenge of free-hand engraving directly on the steel.

Galloway's spurs have been exhibited at the High Noon Western Americana Auction and Antique Show in Mesa, Arizona, and Trappings of Texas.



Spurs
steel and sterling silver

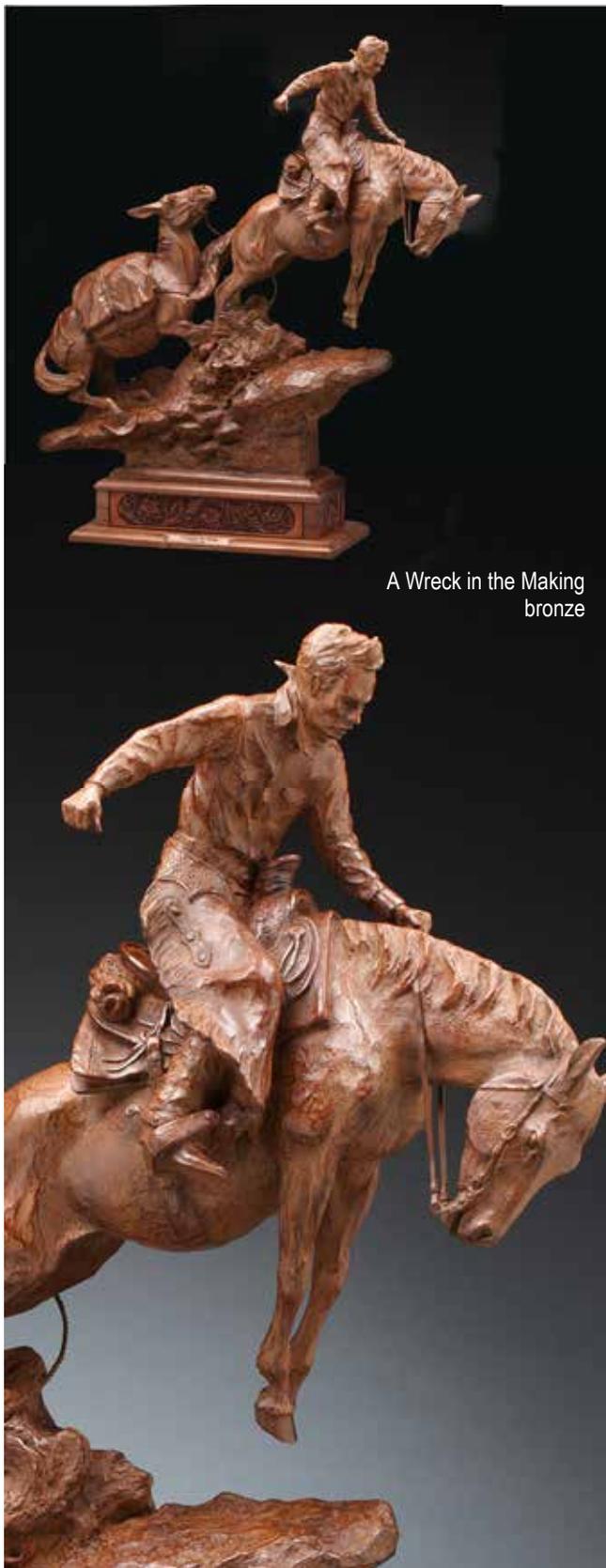
Jim Gilmore

Alamosa, Colorado



Jim Gilmore was born, raised and continues to live on his family's cattle ranch in southern Colorado's San Luis Valley. Along with his love for horses, cattle and wildlife, Jim developed an interest in leather tooling, drawing and sculpture. Bill Chappell, a well-known saddle maker and Western artist, taught Gilmore how to tool leather and later guided him into the world of sculpture.

With over twenty-five years as a full time sculptor, Jim has displayed his works in many national shows. He has received Best of Show awards for sculpture at the NatureWorks show in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and at the Trappings of the American West at the Phippen Museum in Prescott, Arizona. In addition, Jim has completed numerous monumental bronzes, including double life-sized bison for Cabelas, Inc.



A Wreck in the Making
bronze

Bruce Greene Clifton, Texas



Bruce Greene and his family live on a small ranch in the historical community of Norse, near Clifton, Texas. The artist's studio is on the edge of the hill out behind the house. From there, large north windows offer Greene a continuous view of the Texas Hill Country, a few Hereford cows and the occasional white-tail deer. "It is a wonderful blessing to be able to make a living for my family, doing what I love in this beautiful place," says Greene.

Several years ago, Greene began making annual trips to join in the spring work on the great, JA Ranch in the Palo Duro Canyon. "I am absolutely sure that this experience has greatly affected my artwork. It seems necessary, to me, in order to depict the contemporary cowboy with accuracy."

In 1993, Greene was elected to membership in the Cowboy Artists of America and has served terms as Director, Vice President and President. For his works he has received the Ray Swanson Memorial Award, Gold Medal in drawing and other media, Silver Medal in bronze, awarded medals in drawing, painting, sculpture and twice awarded by the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association, as an artist whose work best portrays a traditional cowboy subject.



Sketch of Old Pete
charcoal on paper

Sara Hagel Dayton, Wyoming



Instead of finding a summer job, Sara Douglas Hagel began making manehair mecates in 1983. Saddlemaker Bob Douglas, of Sheridan, Wyoming, taught his thirteen-year-old daughter all he knew about the art, most of which he had learned by trial and error. Refining her skills, learning to use natural colors and designing new patterns, Sara continued to make rope through high school.

She married Lee Hagel in 1992 and began making ropes regularly. Working as a team, she and Lee streamlined and improved the process. With each completed piece came new understanding, carrying on the tradition of learning by doing.



Mecate and Hanger
braided horsehair
23 foot long

Scott Hardy

Longview, Alberta, Canada



Descended from five generations of Western Canadian ranchers and stockmen, Scott Hardy left the ranching life in 1981 to devote himself full time to working with silver. Since 1991, he has lived with his wife Leslie, two sons and a small herd of Longhorns in the heart of southern Alberta's foothill cattle country.

Though largely self-taught, Hardy acknowledges the work of modern masters Al Pecetti and Mark Drain, and turn-of-the-century Tiffany Company craftsmen. It is their influence and knowledge that embellishing horse and rider with precious metals is a tradition as old as man on horseback. This history informs Hardy's drive to give contemporary expression to historic Western forms.

Hardy is a founding member and current President of the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association.

Three Piece Buckle Set
sterling silver and 18K yellow gold
Fully filigreed



Leland Hensley

Meridian, Texas



A native Texan, Leland Hensley developed a passion for the art of rawhide braiding while attending Sul Ross State University in Alpine. After graduation in 1985, he took a job as a ranch manager but continued to polish his braiding skills. To this day Leland sees his braiding, not as a job that needs to be done, but an enjoyable activity that he looks forward to at the end of each day. He is constantly challenging himself to improve and grow. He's made it a personal goal with each finished piece to surpass what he's done in the past. As a result, Leland's work has developed an outstanding reputation amongst collectors and working cowboys alike for unique design, beauty, and rugged functionality.

Leland has made several trips to Argentina to learn new techniques and share ideas. Drawing on international influences is one of the characteristics of Leland Hensley's style that sets his work apart.

Leland is a member of the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association. His work has been exhibited in Sun Valley, Idaho, at the Gathering of Gear in Elko, Nevada, and at Trappings of Texas, where Leland has been a Guest Curator of Gear since 2002.

Letter Opener
braided rawhide
handle has dark brown
and burgundy interweaves



Harold “H” Holden Kremlin, Oklahoma



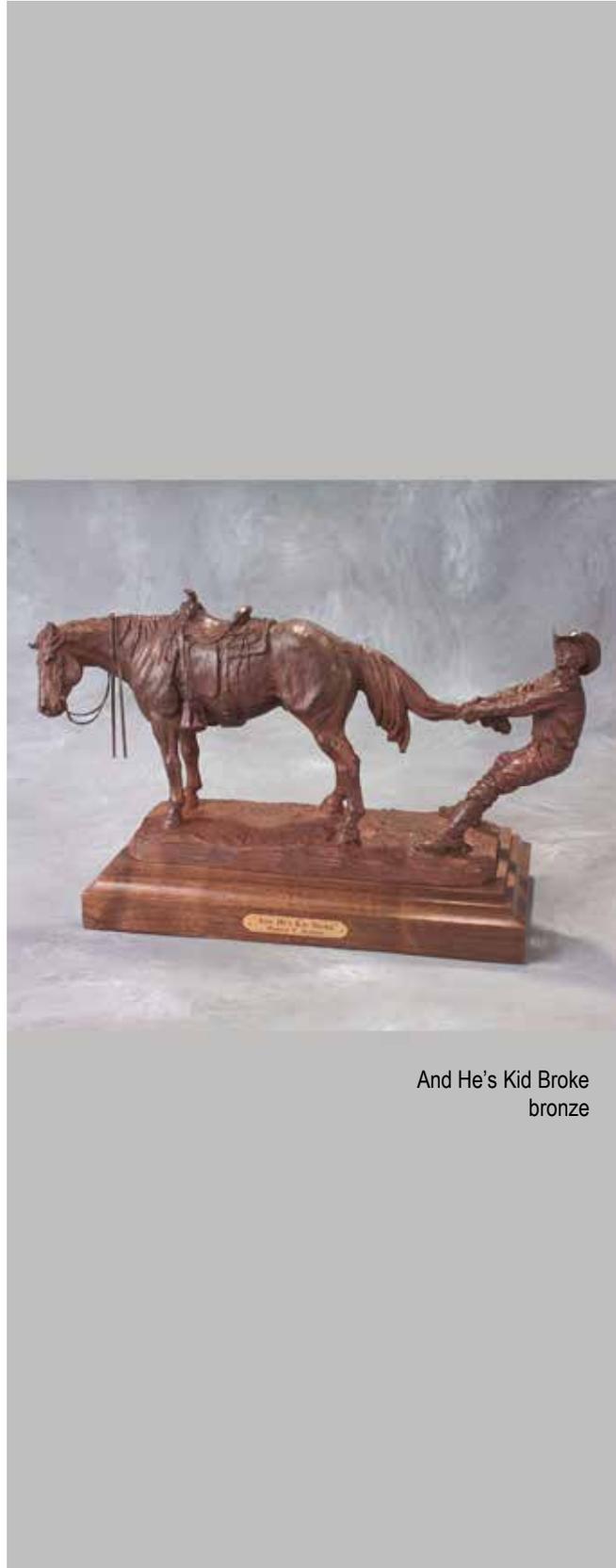
Illustration by Carrie Ballantyne

Harold T. Holden or “H” as he is known to most folks has been capturing the West in sculptures and paintings for almost forty years. While his work can be found in the Oklahoma State Capitol and on a U.S. Postage Stamp, his public sculptures have kept him busy the last twenty plus years as he has completed twenty public works of art in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas.

Holden credits his dad, who was a horseman, for his love of the West and his grandfather George E. Failing for encouraging his fine art career. “H” is a professional member of the National Sculpture Society, a 2001 recipient of the Oklahoma Governor’s Art Award and was recognized in 2005 as a Distinguished Alumni by Oklahoma State University.

His current projects include a larger than life sculpture of U.S. Deputy Marshal Bass Reeves for Fort Smith, Arkansas to be dedicated in May of 2012. He recently dedicated his six foot tall standing figure “Thank You Lord” and in 2012 was featured with a one-man retrospective of his work The Cowboy Way at the Oklahoma Heritage Association in Oklahoma City

Representative shows include the Masters of the American West at the Autry National Center at Griffith Park, Los Angeles, California, the Prix de West at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and at the Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, Wyoming.



And He's Kid Broke
bronze

Matt Humphreys

Spur, Texas



If a family history steeped in ranching traditions has any bearing on knowing how to make good cowboy gear, it doesn't run much deeper than Matt Humphreys' family. His grandfather, Jim, managed the Pitchfork Land & Cattle Company. Jimbo, Humphreys' father, manages the Guitar Ranches in Spur and it is from him that Matt learned much of his spur and bit-making skills.

Humphreys took an interest in the craft and started making bits and spurs in his spare time while in high school. While on break from class at Texas Tech University, Matt spent time with other makers, including Johnny Weyerts of Alpine. By the time Humphreys graduated with a bachelor degree in Animal Science, he had already set up his own spur and bit making shop in Lubbock. He now resides in Spur with his wife, working out of his dad's old shop.

He has built pieces for J. Martin Bassinger, Red McCombs, Trent Willmon, Sandra Day O'Connor and Antonin Scalia. He has shown at the Western Heritage Classic in Abilene and the Texas Ranch Round Up at Wichita Falls. Humphreys has been making the trophy awards for the Motley-Dickens County Old Settlers Reunion in Roaring Springs, Texas, the Ranch Cutting Horse Association and the Western Heritage Classic.



Spurs
double mounted sterling silver
bright cut and single point engraving
fine spoke rowel and tapered spur band

Stephen Jones Woodward, Oklahoma



Stephen Jones was born in 1957 and is a native Oklahoman. He and his wife Kathy live in the historical community of Kennan, which is located on the family ranch.

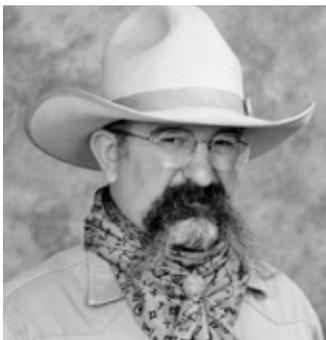
Jones' work may seem somewhat diverse with wildlife, cowboys and Indians, but it reflects the diversity of his life. Stephen has worked as a professional bull rider, commercial illustrator, successful fashion designer and working cowboy. His Cheyenne heritage emerges in his bronzes of Native Americans and his love of nature is expressed in his wildlife pieces. His hands-on experience and knowledge as a working ranch cowboy is what breathes life into his cowboy art.

Stephen creates works that stir his soul. His sculptures are not duplicates of his subject, instead they embody the experience of what had occurred at that particular moment and the power, grace and elegance of the subject.

Come A Part
bronze



Krist King
Archbold, Ohio



Krist King is a self-taught whip maker and braider. He learned his craft while cowboying on ranches in Nevada, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Florida.

While in Florida, he was introduced to the cow whip and decided to take one apart and learn to make one on his own. Thirty years later, King supplies whips to customers all over the United States. As time allows, he also rawhides and has used his own reatas for years. King also enjoys training horses for riding and driving.

Currently King lives in northwest Ohio with his wife Muriel. He also works for a fertilizer and propane company.



Stockwhip
braided kangaroo
osage orange handle
10 foot long

Billy Klapper Pampa, Texas



Image courtesy Cheatham, 2010

Billy developed a relationship with A.R. Bayers, a bit and spurmaker, and he would often observe Bayers at work and learned a great deal from him. In particular, Bayers made spurs from old Ford axles, because they were made of high-grade steel.

In 1966, using a Ford axle, Billy made his first pair of spurs. The demand for his spurs grew, and in 1968, he started making gear full time. Billy has six hundred and eighty-two spur patterns and eight hundred and sixteen different bit patterns and will customize each one.

To make his gear, Klapper still heats his metal with a small coal forge located in the center of his shop and pounds out the hot metal on trip hammers made in the 1920s. He is one of the few spurmakers who still makes a one-piece spur. First created for working cowboys, Billy's gear is now collected worldwide.

754 Spurs
sterling silver and copper



Joyce Ladner
Pueblo West, Colorado



As a young girl Joyce Ladner's favorite place was the hayloft of a milk barn on a South Dakota farm. Her first job as a teenager was riding colts. She's day-worked ranches in Wyoming, New Mexico and Texas, been a rancher's wife, a big game hunting guide and a camp cook in Colorado, before managing a cattle ranch in Oklahoma.

Regardless of location or job title she's always been passionate about photography and gained knowledge crafting her art through life experiences. Although partial to Western themed images anything is apt to catch her eye and tucked in a saddlebag, over her shoulder or on the truck seat beside her, is a camera always within reach.

High Headed Trouble
giclee print



Pablo Lozano Tandil, Argentina

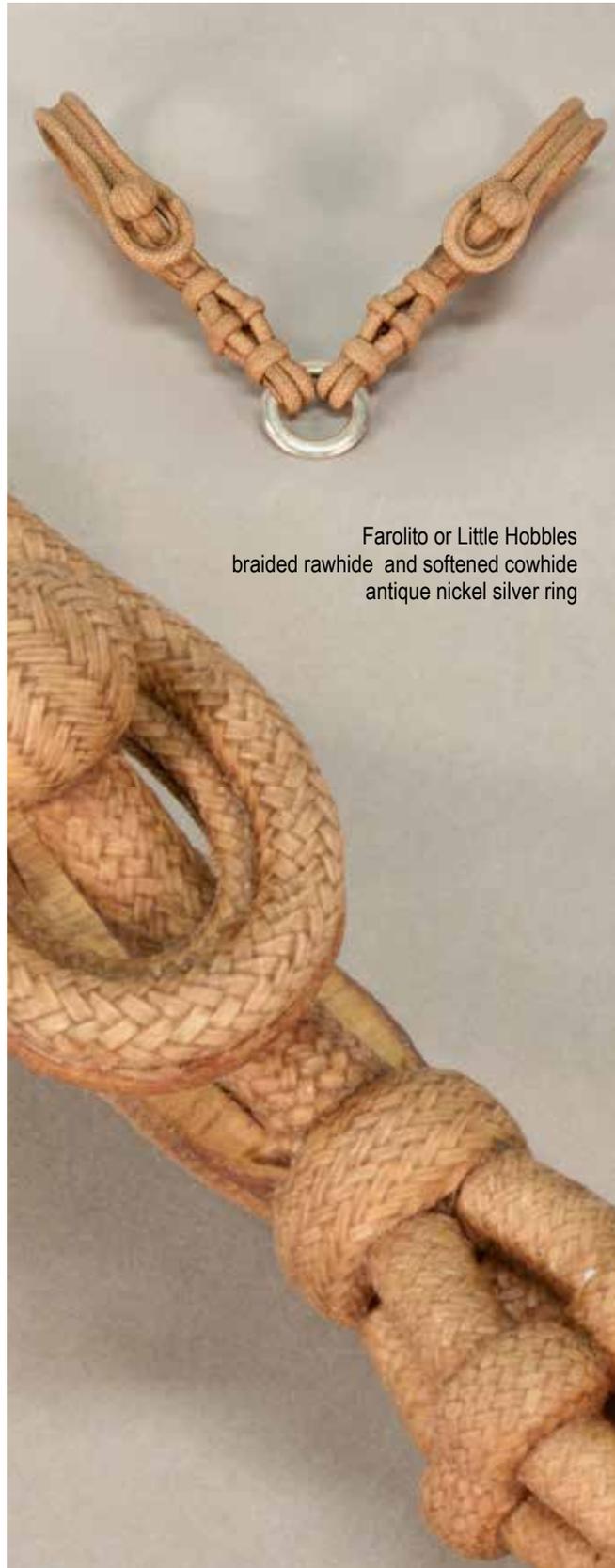


Pablo Lozano was born in Buenos Aires in 1964 and began learning about braiding at the age of fifteen. Family tradition tied him into Argentina's cattle heritage since the 19th century. After graduating from Champagnat College in Buenos Aires he studied with rawhide braider Don Luis Alberto Flores and silversmithing with Daniel Escasani.

Since 1987, Lozano has been an "ad honorem" instructor at the Heritage Center in Tandil. Throughout his career, Lozano has schooled and mentored many aspiring braiders. He believes in the concept of apprenticeship as a means to educate and safeguard the Gaucho's cultural legacy. In 2008 Lozano became a member of the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association.

His works have been exhibited at Elko, Nevada; Mesa, Arizona; Loveland, Colorado, and at the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Lozano has received numerous awards and most recently in 2007, he earned the *Santos Vega* as the best Argentine rawhide braider.

Lozano's traditional rawhide braiding is recognized for its dependable use and unique beauty due to his personal style and creative talent.

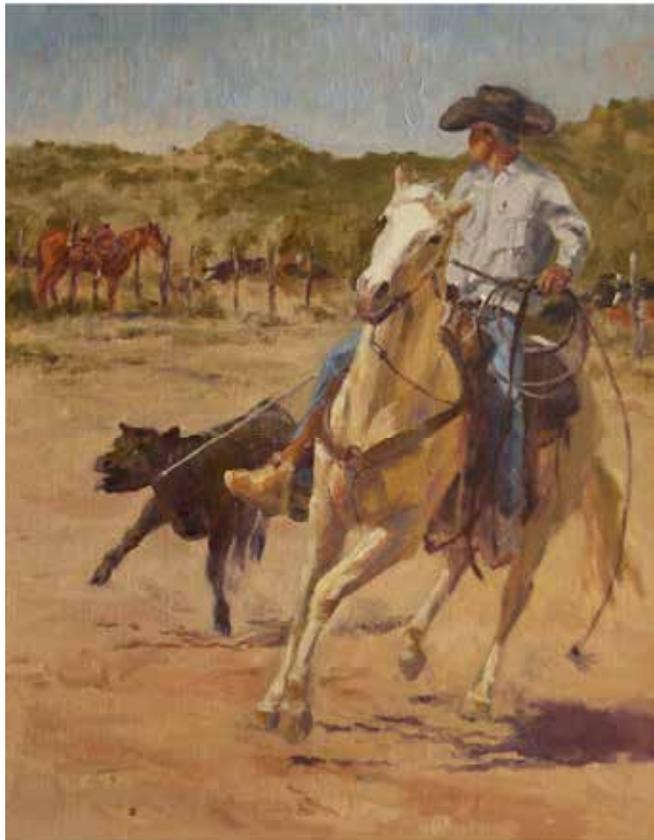


Farolito or Little Hobbles
braided rawhide and softened cowhide
antique nickel silver ring

Jan Mapes Kim, Colorado

Colorado has been home for Jan Mapes since 1969. Her studio is located in the ranch country of southeastern Colorado, where her husband Jim trains cutting horses. Jan's artwork flows from living the traditional western lifestyle which pervades the local community. Years of immersion and love for this culture have allowed her to develop a special feel for the land, along with its inhabitants and this is communicated through her work. Whether sculpting cowboys, horses, or wildlife, Jan strives to capture the movement, flow, and emotion of the moment. "I never intend to stop growing in my sensitivity towards nature- always taking time to appreciate life."

Mapes' sculptures and paintings are represented in galleries and museums across the country including the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana, the Phippen Museum, Prescott, Arizona, and at the Desert Caballeros Museum in Wickenburg, Arizona.



Lookin' for a Heeler
oil

Ernie Marsh Thayne, Wyoming



Making quality silver mounted bridle bits and spurs has been a passion of Ernie Marsh since 1990. His unique style of combining firearm engraving with traditional inlay techniques, along with painstaking attention to detail have set his work apart. With function being the underlying foundation, his heirloom quality pieces have become valued possessions of serious horsemen as well as collectors.

Marsh's vision and passion for bits and spurs became reality with the help of the late Elmer Miller of Nampa, Idaho, and John Barracough of Pasadena, California. He is also appreciative of the help and advice from many fellow craftsmen.

The Marshs operate a full-time shop, producing bits, spurs, saddle silver and buckles and since 1998, producing the traditional style stainless bridle bits first produced and made famous by noted bit maker, Al Tietjen of Reno, Nevada.

He was chosen as one of the Top Ten Spur Makers from 1997 to 1999. In 2000 the Academy of Western Artists honored him with the Will Rogers Award as Spurmaker of the Year. Marsh is a founding member of the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association.



Steer Head Buckle
sterling silver

Nancy Martiny

May, Idaho



Nancy Martiny built her first saddle in 1987 after receiving two Harwood-made trees as a Christmas gift. That spring, Dale Harwood helped coach her through building herself a saddle. Armed with a notebook from her time at Harwood's, she built her next saddle on a twelve inch Homestead tree for her children to ride. Orders from friends and family followed. Trial and error, with the occasional phone call to Dale, were her lessons in saddle making.

A trip to Oklahoma City to attend a leather carving class, taught by Dale Harwood and Don King, as part of the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association annual show in 2002, opened up a new world of learning opportunity for Martiny. A scholarship from the TCAA to a weeklong saddle making class with Dale Harwood became the second chance at higher education. Workshops with Cary Schwarz and Steve Mecham, as well as another trip to Oklahoma City, have continued her education. Nancy continues to study various resources to improve both her saddle making and leather carving skills



Saddle
10X daisy floral with antique finish
Hermann Oak A grade leather
Harwood stainless steel hardware
regular squared skirts

Loyd McConnell

Marble Falls, Texas



Loyd McConnell has been making knives since 1976. He started on a Sears 6 X 48 grinder that he had borrowed from his dad. In 1966, he graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in accounting and practiced public accounting for eighteen years. Throughout the years, he had been involved with several oil related companies both as owner and director. In 1989, McConnell made knife-making a full-time job.

McConnell's work can be found in collections all over the world. He is a Bespoken Knifemaker for Holland & Holland, Riflemakers to the British Crown, producing exclusive knife designs. The Orvis Company, Inc. and Beretta Galleries in New York and Dallas, Texas carry his work.

Fixed Blade Rio Grand Knife
CPMS-30V stainless steel
mammoth tooth handle



Sharon McConnell

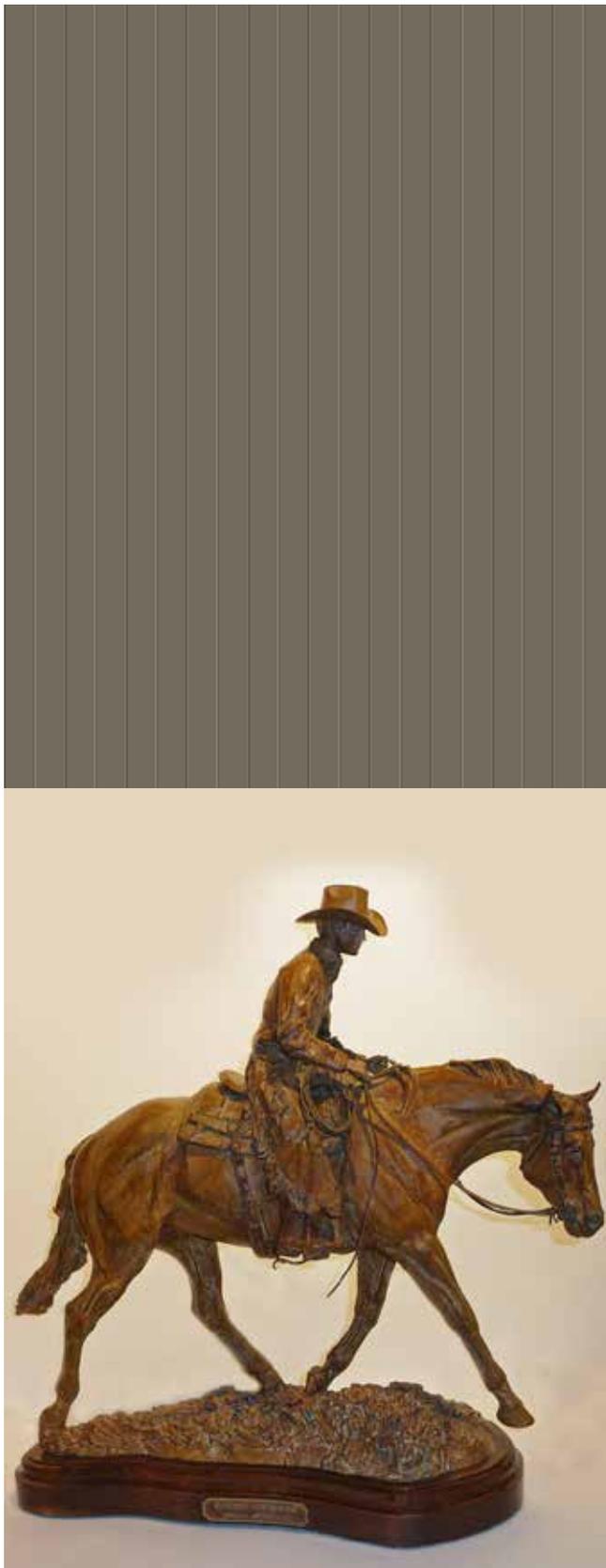
Dublin, Texas



Sharon McConnell was born in Denton, Texas, where her family was in the cattle and horse industry. She has trained pleasure horses, barrel horses and has assisted her husband Ronnie with training riding and showing cutting horses. They currently reside in Dublin, Texas

Sharon had been receiving painting instruction from Western artist, Chuck DeHaan. DeHaan encouraged her to try her hand at sculpting and for McConnell she found a media to fully explore her talents.

Puttin' on Miles
bronze



Rick McCumber George West, Texas



Rick McCumber was raised in the small south Texas ranching community of George West, located in the heart of the Nueces Strip that is historically known as the Wild Horse Desert. Surrounded by the families, history and culture of men credited with originating the legendary Longhorn cattle drives of the 1880's, Rick was privileged, throughout his youth, to tag along during the cattle workings with men whose fathers and grandfathers had participated in the transformation of the early Texas horse and cattle industry. The youngster did not realize at the time that his early years of involvement with those old-timers would one day be the inspiration for the pieces he creates in his studio on the banks of the Nueces River.

Grateful to have known these men, Rick is committed to accurately representing and honoring the ranching traditions of the south Texas cowboy, both past and present, in his work.

Waitin' on Daylight
bronze



Carlos Montefusco

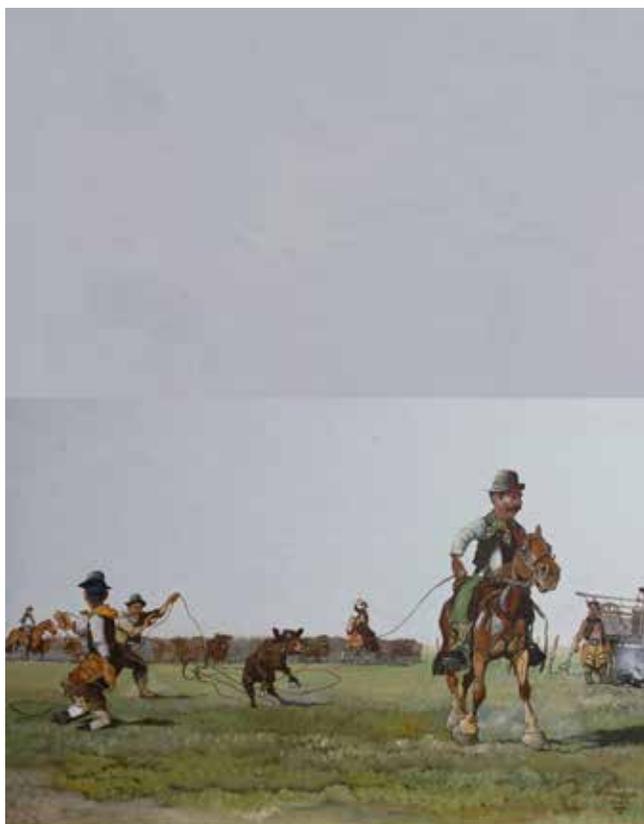
Huinca Renanco, Argentina



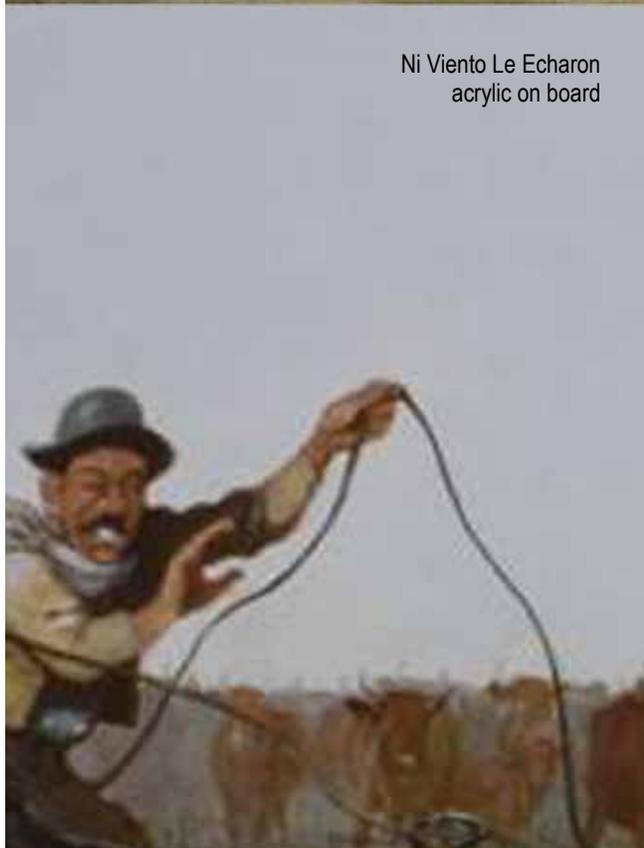
Born on December 25, 1964, Carlos Montefusco attempted his first drawing at the age of one when he added his own artistic signature to his father's graphic designs. By the age of six, Montefusco enjoyed horseback riding with his father and was developing an interest and passion for the horse, the Argentine countryside and its rural people.

A graduate from the University of Lomas de Zamora with a Zootechnical Engineer degree, he moved to rural Huinca Renanco to begin his professional career and continued to refine his artistic skills. However, he always managed to find time to show his love for nature and his passion for the gaucho heritage through his drawings and paintings.

Self taught, the fusion of his humoristic and singular style with a realistic and warm depiction of the Argentine countryside and its rural people has placed him in a unique position amongst Argentina's painters.



Ni Viento Le Echaron
acrylic on board

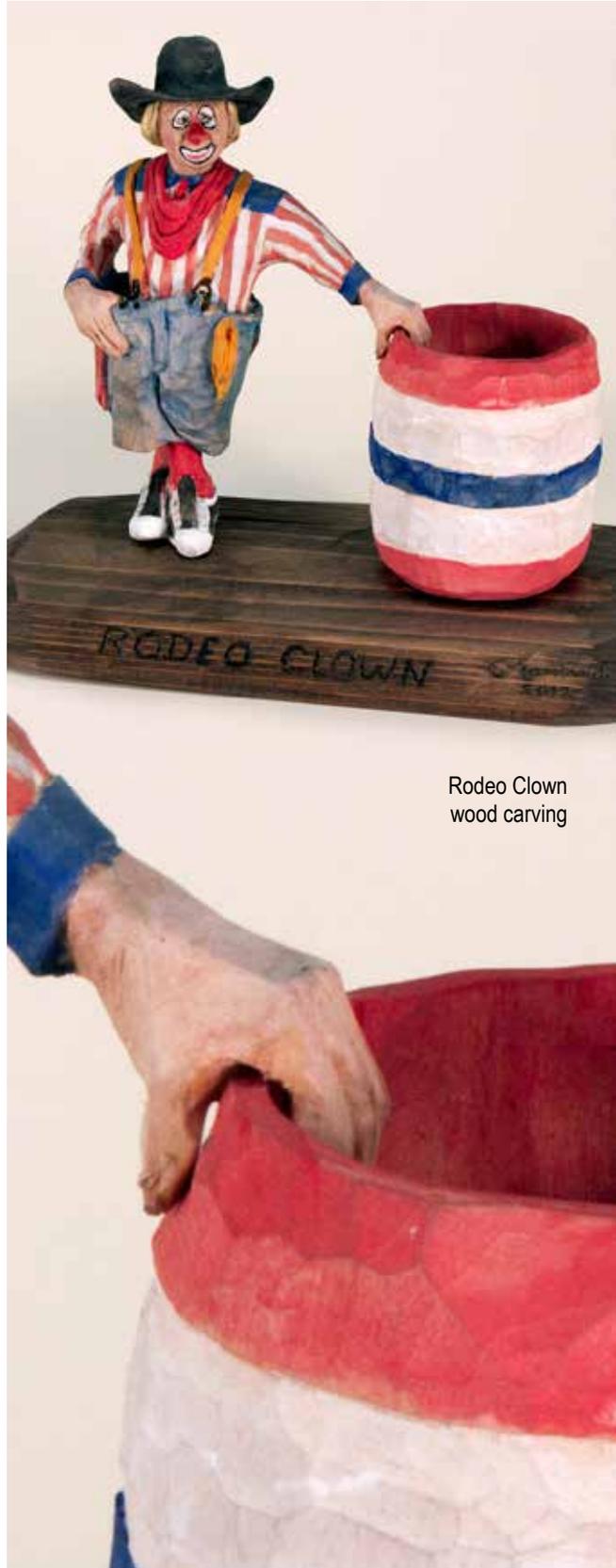


Glenn Moreland Fort Davis, Texas



Glenn Moreland grew up south of Austin, Texas. He began his first wood carving when he served a short stint as a cattle inspector in Fort Bend County. Far from home, he began filling in lonesome evenings by trying his hand at wood carving when he wasn't practicing his fiddle. Later on when he had moved to Fort Davis, he refined his work and inspired by the art of the woodcarver Gene Zesch, became serious about his art work. He took his ideas for his carvings from the ranch culture he was involved in throughout West Texas. Many of his carvings were inspired by cowboys and ranchers he knew or songs he has sung.

In the 1970s and 1980s he showed his work at western art shows and galleries around Texas and his works are in collections from Midland to Beaumont. During the 1990s and the early part of the decade, Glenn was more focused on his music and establishing his business as a wagon builder. A few years ago, with encouragement from his friends and family, he began carving again and has since shown his work in Trappings of Texas.



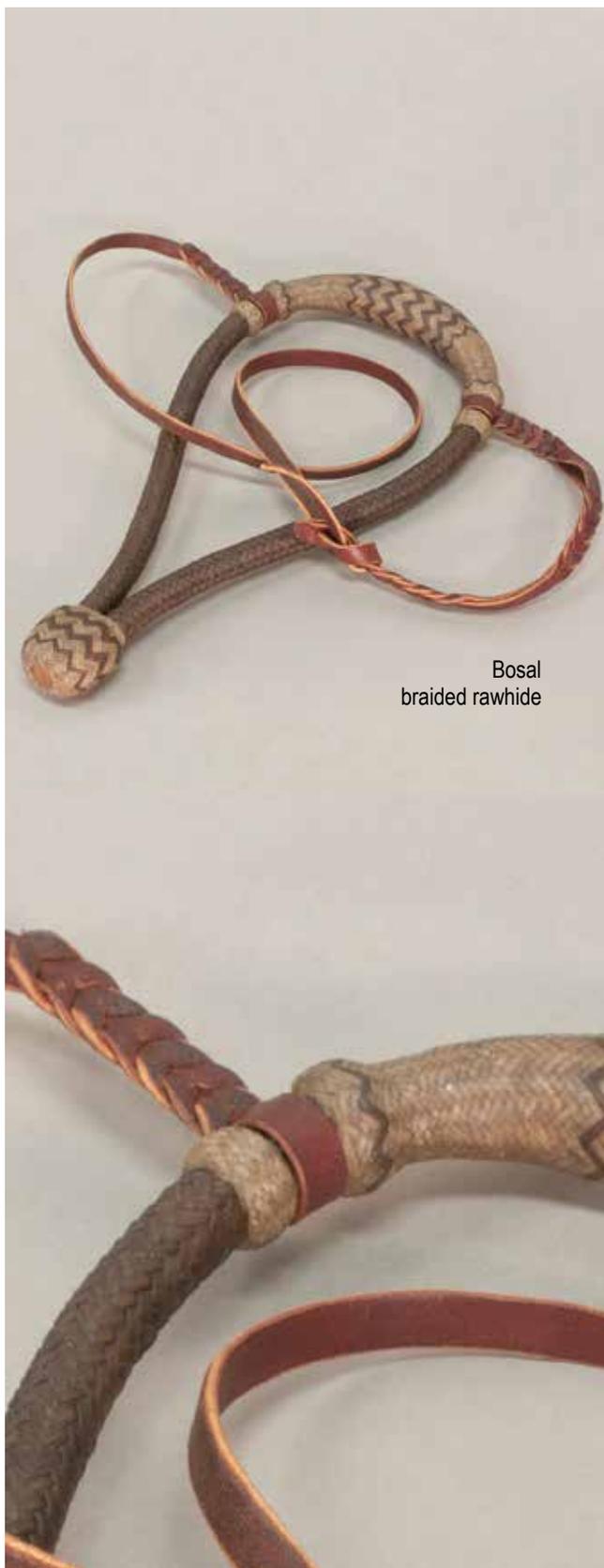
Rodeo Clown
wood carving

Whit Olson Schell City, Missouri

While earning his Equine Science Degree from Montana State University, Whit Olson began studying under professional braider, Hial Steele of Manhattan, Montana. What began as a part-time job rapidly developed into a passion.

Though the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association's scholarship program and workshops, Whit has been privileged to work with TCAA braiders like Nate Wald and Leland Hensley. Olson has made the most of the time he has been able to spend with other braiders and values the techniques that have been passed down to him. His work is on display at several exhibits each year including: Trappings of Texas, Art of the Cowboy Makers in Loveland, Colorado, and the Gathering of Gear, Elko, Nevada.

Whit, his wife Megan and son Wyatt recently moved to South Dakota to farm while also running cattle in Megan's home state of Missouri. Although Whit stays busy farming and ranching, he continues to braid functional and elegant gear. He consistently strives to learn and build on what others have taught him and believes that learning is a lifelong commitment.



Bosal
braided rawhide

Mike Pardue Midland, Texas



Mike Pardue was raised in Midland and in 1984 he married his high school sweetheart Tammy. They recently celebrated their twenty-seventh wedding anniversary. He and his wife have two daughters, Tiffany and Bethany.

Pardue has served for twenty-two years as a Fire-fighter/Paramedic and Rescue Technician for the Midland Fire Department. Being a fire-fighter allowed him to pursue other hobbies and in 2000 he decided to learn the craft of western silver work and engraving. Pardue has been able to turn a hobby into a second career and recognizes that without the support of Tammy and help of family and friends he would not be where he is today. He also thanks God for all the blessings in his life.

Three Piece Buckle Set
sterling silver and steel



Pee Wee Peebles Marathon, Texas

Pee Wee Peebles grew up in the town of Ranger, Texas, where he graduated from high school. As a high school student, Peebles built his first set of spurs in Ag class and used them while working on area ranches. After graduation, he worked briefly on the D Ranch near the Guadalupe Mountains then moved to the Big Bend area where he lives today.

As a young man of nineteen, he moved to Marathon, Texas, and there had the good fortune to work for John Hardaway who was an area ranch manager. Hardaway was not only his boss, he was a teacher and mentor to Pee Wee. He helped him to build gear from beginning to end, but also got him interested in engraving. In addition, Peebles was determined to build a one-piece spur but was experiencing difficulties producing one that met his standards. He had the good fortune to spend time with Billy Klapper at his shop where he learned the techniques and methods of creating a one-piece spur from one of the masters of the craft. Along the way, Pee Wee received useful advice and criticism from the cowboys that he worked with on the importance of making a functional bit or a set of spurs

Pee Wee and his wife Kyle along with their three sons Gage, Rance and Levens live near Tesnus, between Sanderson and Marathon, Texas, on the U up U down Ranch owned by Scott McIvor.



Chihuahua Spurs
sterling silver and steel



Benoit Poulain

Lone Oak, Texas



Benoit Poulain is a successful Frenchman residing in the countryside near Lone Oak, Texas. His thirty years experience in the Western silversmith arena has recently earned him the honor to build the saddle silver for the team owner of the 2011 NFL Super Bowl finalist and five presidential saddles for dignitaries around the globe such as Prince Charles of England, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and the Presidents of Afghanistan, Columbia and Mongolia.

When he is not in the shop, he helps his wife Pam taking care of their farm and big vegetable garden. In the evenings he can be found in the kitchen engaged in a culinary experiment, which Pam and their friends adore!

Cosmos Duo
His and Hers Buckle Set
sterling silver
almandine pyrope garnets



Dave Powell

Prescott, Arizona



Dave Powell was born and raised in Kalipell, Montana, by his artist parents, Ace Powell and Nancy Mc Laughlin Powell. His father was a prolific Western artist whose childhood paint-box set was a gift from Charlie and Nancy Russell.

Dave became a serious student of art in his mid-teens, and has been a professional artist most of his adult life. Over the years he has worked with Bob Scriver, Ned Jacob, Robert Lougheed and Tom Lovell. In addition, CA artist Joe Beeler became a friend and mentor to Powell. Because of his vast knowledge of the dress and habits of western Indians, pioneers and cowboys, he is often called upon to provide costumes and props, and to give technical advice about authenticity for films and television. Productions he has worked on include "Good Old Boys", "Silverado", "Lonesome Dove" and "Seabiscuit." While his film work utilizes his experience and observation, his sculptures, paintings and illustrations are born of his imagination.

The Society of American Historical Artists awarded Powell a Gold Medal in sculpting, and he is a recipient of the George Phippen Memorial Award. Powell's artwork has been featured at the Western Heritage Sale, Houston, Texas; the Museum of Native American Culture, Spokane, Washington, and the C.M. Russell Show of Original Western Art, Great Falls, Montana. Private collections include John and Nelly Connelly, Tommy Lee Jones, Randy Travis and Denver Pyle. Powell is a member of the Cowboy Artists of America



A Running Jump
oil

Ruben Ramos

Jal, New Mexico



Ruben Ramos has been involved in knife and leather work for over twenty-three years , and most recently he has been able to work on his craft full-time. Ramos finds great satisfaction in creating a usable piece from raw materials.

To produce one of his knives, he starts with flat bar stock and hollows out the knife using a grinder/sander as opposed to hammering the knife into shape. He is always seeking ways to improve on his craft and strives for perfection. His knives are truly one-of-a-kind and are built to last generations. Both his knives and custom leather goods are handmade by him in his shop.

Ramos has lived in Jal, New Mexico, most of his life and makes his home there with his wife DeAnna.

Mini Mag Hunting Knife
154CM stainless steel blade
rope file work
Alaskan mammoth ivory handle



Javier Ribeyrol Platanos, Argentina

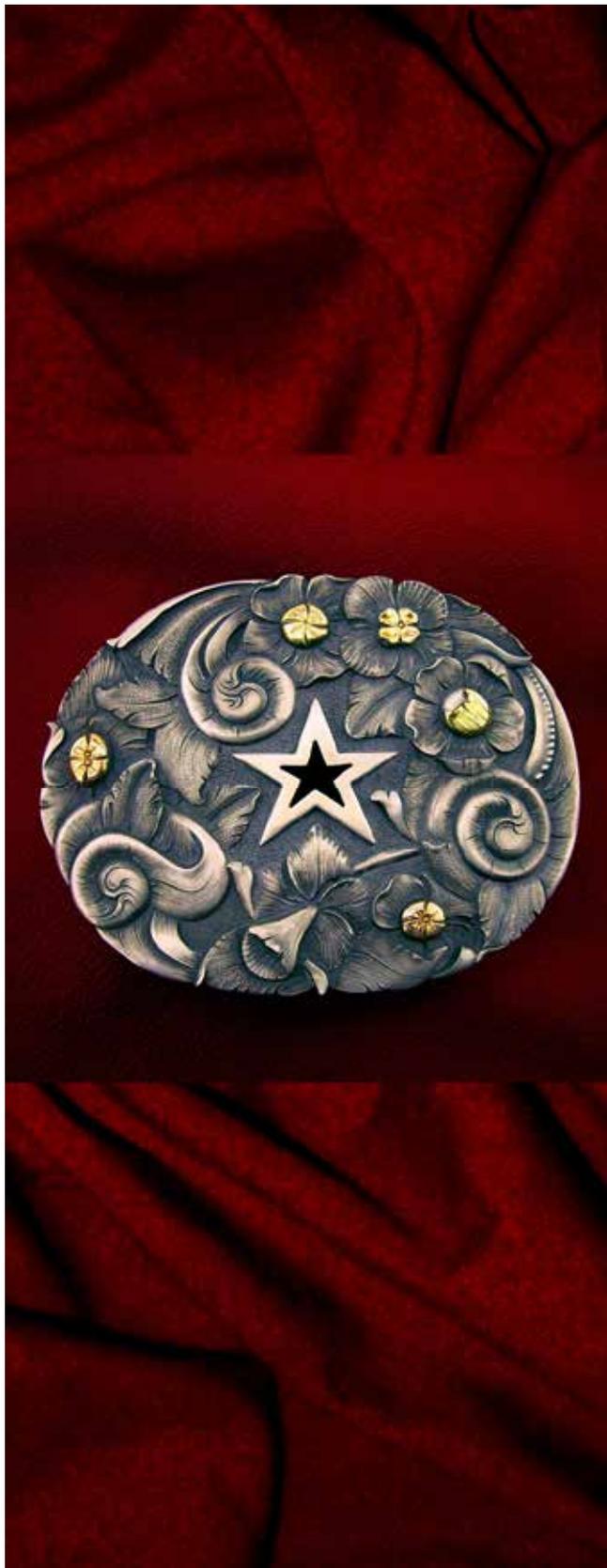


Javier Ribeyrol graduated from San Martin College and then began studying the art of silversmithing from Fernando Rivalora at the Municipal School of Arts in Berazategui. He subsequently studied the art of sculpting and chiseling in silver with silversmith David Zaco. Ribeyrol's non-traditional style and creative talent are recognized by his distinctive hand cut and deeply-sculpted pieces that highlights bold floral motifs in his silver. The chiseling and engraving of floral patterns adds a unique beauty to his style.

Javier has mentored several aspiring silversmiths from his shop in the town of Plantanos. He believes in the concept of apprenticeships as a means to educate and safeguard the gaucho's cultural legacy. Currently he is an instructor at the Municipal School of Arts in Berazategui working with aspiring silversmiths.

Ribeyrol has exhibited his work in numerous Trappings of Texas shows as well as at the Art of the Cowboy Maker in Loveland, Colorado, and at the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Star of Texas Trophy Buckle
sterling silver and 18K gold



Peter Robbins Fort Worth, Texas



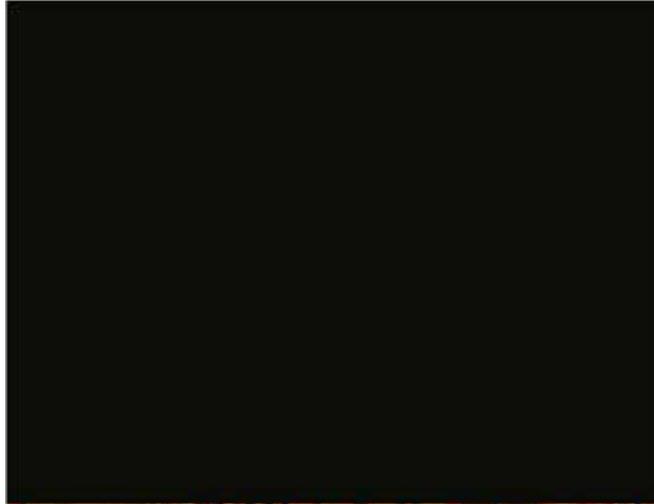
Image courtesy Teal Blake

Peter Robbins' photo career began in 1980 when he and his wife Kim moved to Europe. He worked as a photo journalist for American as well as European news agencies. Robbins did photo projects throughout Europe, Asia, the Middle East and South and Central America. Peter worked in Egypt and Jordan at the close of the 1st Gulf war, and was in Central America during the during the Nicaragua and Guatemala crisis in 1986.

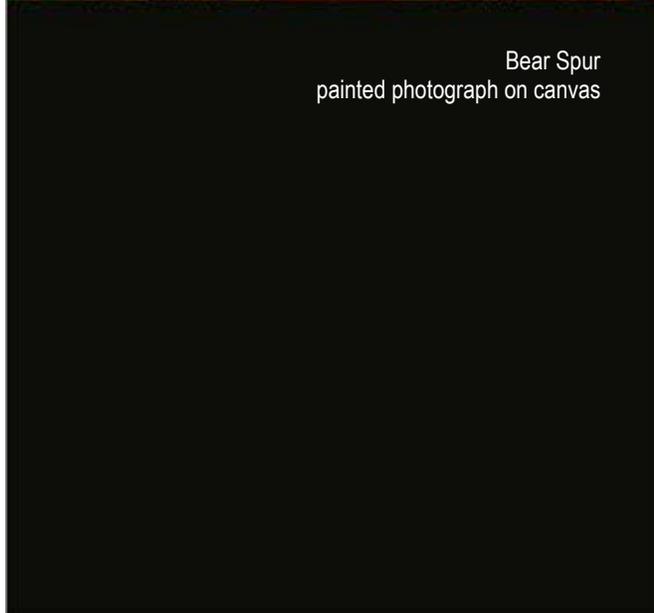
Robbins transitioned from photo journalism to editorial, commercial and fashion photography in the mid-1980s. His clients included Neiman Marcus, Lands' End, Eddie Bauer and JC Penney.

In 1995, he began photographing ranches and cowboys. Robbins has worked on ranches throughout Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Wyoming. These ranches include the Pitchfork, 6666, Tongue River, Moorhouse, Spires, ORO, Bell, TO, Stewart and many other great ranches. He works alongside the men at these ranches and photograph the daily life of cowboys, the horses they ride and the cattle they raise.

Peter enlarges his photos on canvas and then overpaints or embellishes the photographs with oil pastels. Each image is original and cannot be duplicated. They are then sealed and stretched over custom wood frames. The inks, pastels and sealers are the most archival available and will last many generations.



Bear Spur
painted photograph on canvas



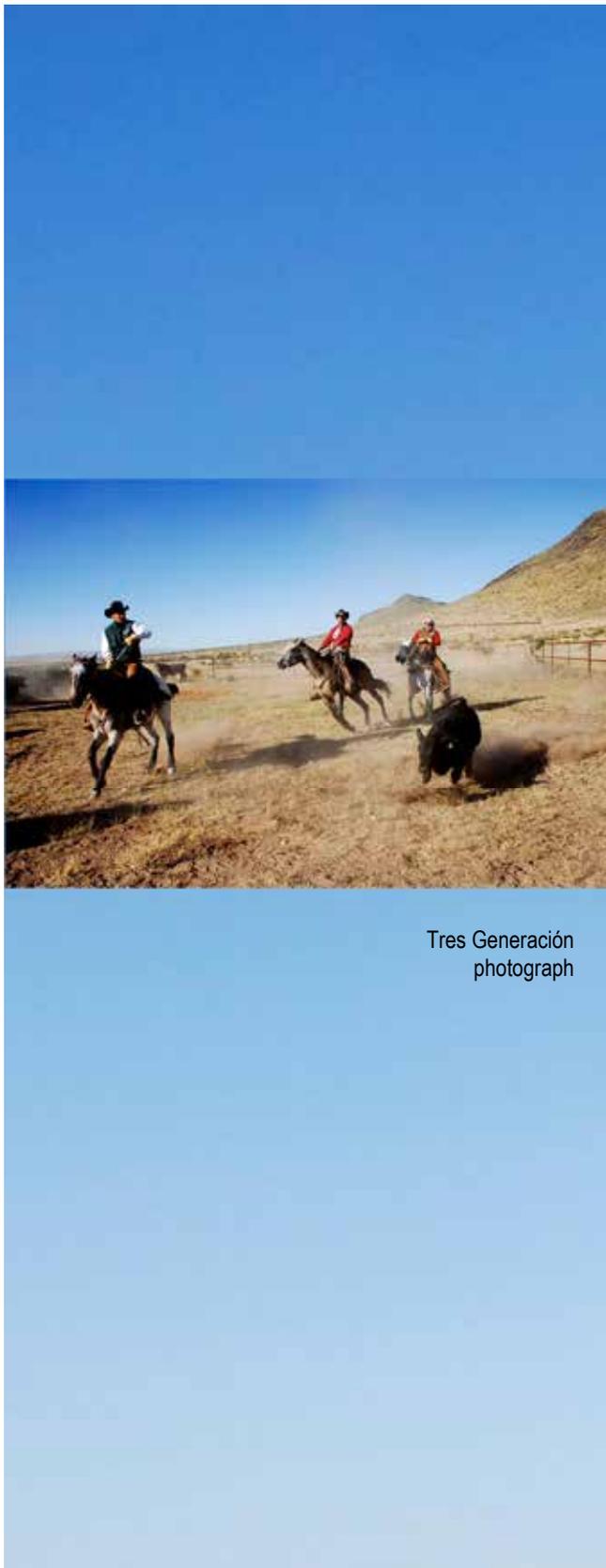
John David Sackett Boerne, Texas



John Sackett's career in photography began in the late 1950s at Texas A&M, documenting the Corps activities with a Voigtlander 35MM camera. By the early 1960s as an officer in the 25th Infantry Division he had purchased a better camera and photographed what he saw during his military service.

After leaving the service, Sackett worked in the steel business in Houston and continued to hone his photographic skills. He purchased a Hasselblad with some lenses and attachments and his photographic interests began to drift in the direction of Walker Evans and Dorthea Lange. He was honored for his dedication to his craft, by having his work included in The Family of Man exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

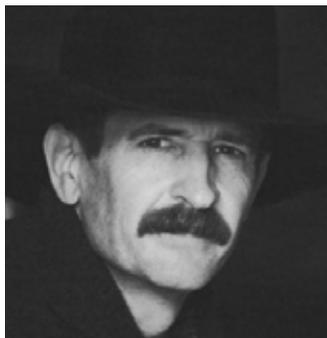
Recently, he has become interested in vaqueros and has photographed round ups and roping events in the Trans-Pecos region. This body of work has been recently exhibited in San Antonio and Boerne.



Tres Generación
photograph

Cary Schwarz

Salmon, Idaho

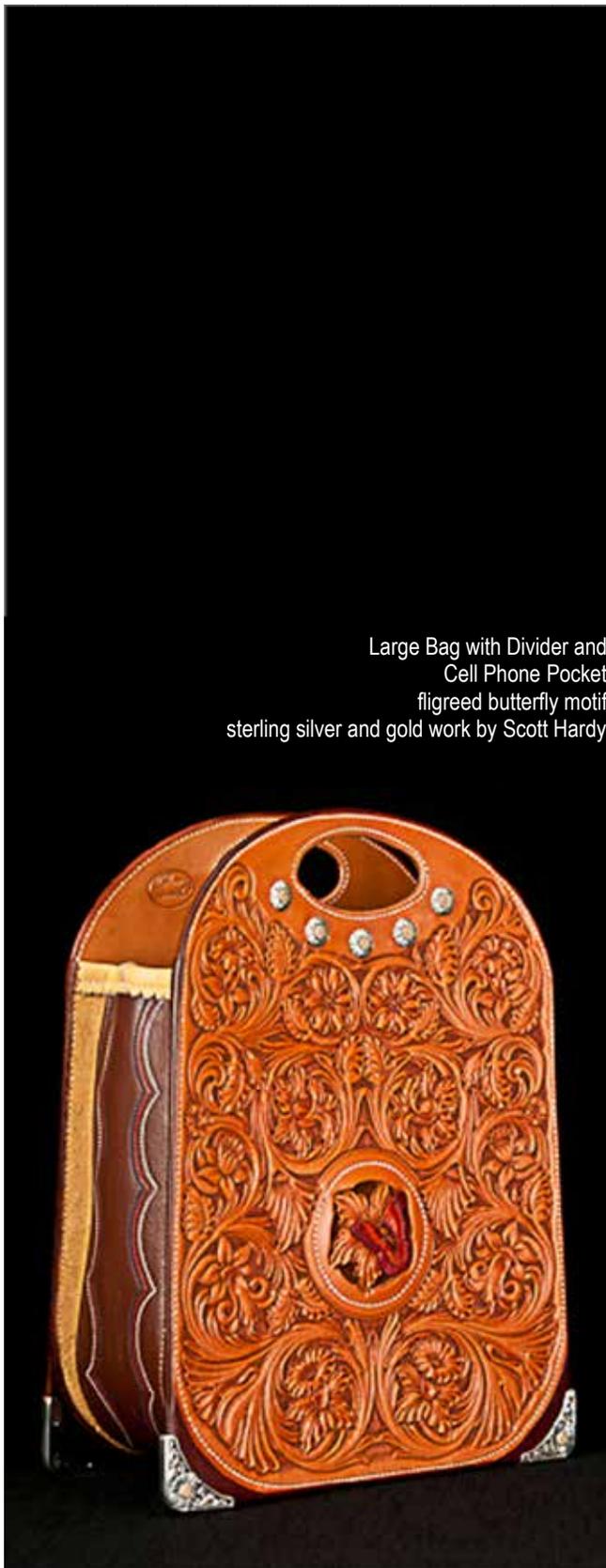


Cary Schwarz began working leather as a hobby in the early 1970s as a farm boy from southern Idaho. Later, he visited a holster shop in Twin Falls where he saw employees working with leather, hand tools and equipment and soon he was working alongside these craftsmen. With this experience, he worked at two different saddle shops while attending Boise State University. After working as a trapper, hunting guide, packer and farm worker, Schwarz enrolled in a saddle making school in Spokane, Washington and built his first saddle in the fall of 1982.

Schwarz's journey to become a top-notch saddler has led him to seek out some of the West's most respected craftsmen in order to continue his education. In 1998, he became a founding member of the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association. He received the Academy of Western Artists Saddlemaker of the Year award in 2009 and Idaho Governor's Award for the Arts in 2010.

In the spring of 2009, Schwarz traveled to France to study old world leather work from a classically trained saddler in Saumur. As he continues his quest for refinement, he has also found the time to teach. Each year he hosts a clinic where he passes on what he has learned about saddle making and flower carving.

Large Bag with Divider and
Cell Phone Pocket
fligreed butterfly motif
sterling silver and gold work by Scott Hardy



Jason Scull

Loveland, Colorado



Jason Scull grew up on the fringes of the south Texas brush country where his family was involved in farming and ranching. His ancestors arrived in Texas in the mid 1820s where they carved out a place in the American West. His sculpture portrays the ranch people of south Texas and the characters of the borderlands of the great Southwest.

His dream of being a Western artist began at the age of fourteen. Upon receiving a copy of *The Joe Beeler Sketchbook* from his parents for his sixteenth birthday he began in earnest to pursue his dream. To help him achieve his goal, he received instruction from Cowboy Artist of America members Jack Swanson and Mehl Lawson.

His works are in public and private collections across America, Canada and Great Britain. His monumental works are on display in San Marcos, Grapevine, Sequin and McAllen, Texas, and in Caycee, South Carolina. Due to his pursuit of perfection in representing the cowboy and the American West in his sculpture, Scull was recently inducted in the Cowboy Artists of America.

Brushpopper
bronze



Keith Seidel Cody, Wyoming



Keith Seidel started working leather at age twelve, bought his first stitcher at thirteen, and was working in a local saddle shop after school by the age of fourteen. His family raised Morgan horses giving Keith the opportunity to analyze and understand the importance of fit, function, and comfort. After finishing school in 1983, he traveled the western United States from saddle shop to saddle shop learning and developing new skills.

He was privileged to study under dozens of saddle makers, and to pick and choose shops where he wanted to work and learn as much as possible from each one. Keith's premise is "No matter how fancy an item may be I hold fast to the principle that performance is paramount."

Keith is a two-time nominee for Saddlemaker of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists, and has been awarded the Best Tooled Saddle Award each time he entered at the World Leather Debut in Sheridan, Wyoming in 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2010. In 2004 and 2011 Keith won Best of Show, Best Workmanship, and Best Tooling at the Boot and Saddlemaker's Round Up in Wichita Falls, Texas.



Rahaman Saddle
Top Hand saddle in Hubbard Syle
swell, seat, skirts and riggings are
shaped and molded from a single
piece of leather
fenders and stirrup leathers are one
piece, with hidden buckles

Lindy Cook Severns

Fort Davis, Texas



Copiloting a corporate jet for husband Jim for two decades gave landscape artist Lindy Cook Severns a profound understanding of the skies that span her landscapes, while seven generations of Texas pioneer ancestors bequeathed the Fort Davis painter an appreciation for vast, rugged spaces and the people who roam them.

Severns' mother taught her to draw, and she credits Santa Fe's Albert Handell with her smattering of formal art training. With roots in drawing the human figure, she seeks to paint landscapes as portraits of the terrain. Although some subjects demand being painted in oils, she appreciates the purity, permanence and complexity of soft pastels. "The thought process behind painting in pastels compared to painting in oils is like shooting an instrument approach down to minimums versus flying in clear skies with unrestricted visibility."

Represented in *Texas Traditions*, *Contemporary Artists of the Lone Star State* and collected internationally, Severns is this year's cover artist for *Big Bend Artists and Galleries* guide. Old Spanish Trail Studio, her working fine art studio and gallery in the Davis Mountains, is open by appointment. She is represented by Midland Gallery, Midland, Texas, and by Michael Duty Fine Art, Dallas, Texas.



Dawn's Early Light
pastel on archival paper

Chessney Sevier Glendo, Wyoming

Chessney Sevier finds inspiration in the simple beauty and lifestyle of the Nebraska sandhills where she grew up, and in the Wyoming landscape where she lives today. The daughter of an artist, Chessney has pursued her own career as a printmaker and painter since receiving her degree in fine arts from Nebraska's Chadron State College in 1998.

Chessney considers herself a "contemporary western artist." Her work reflects her rural upbringing and heritage, and expresses her experience of the American West. She works primarily in intaglio or copper plate etching, a process in which each print must be inked and pulled by hand. She also paints in acrylic and in oil, creating small-scale paintings that often depict community life in the rural West.

Sevier has taken top honors in printmaking at the Santa Fe Indian Market, and at the Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair and Market, Phoenix, Arizona. Her works have also been seen at the We Pointed Them North exhibit at the Cattle Raisers Museum, Fort Worth, Texas and in a solo exhibition at the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Stargazer
intaglio etching

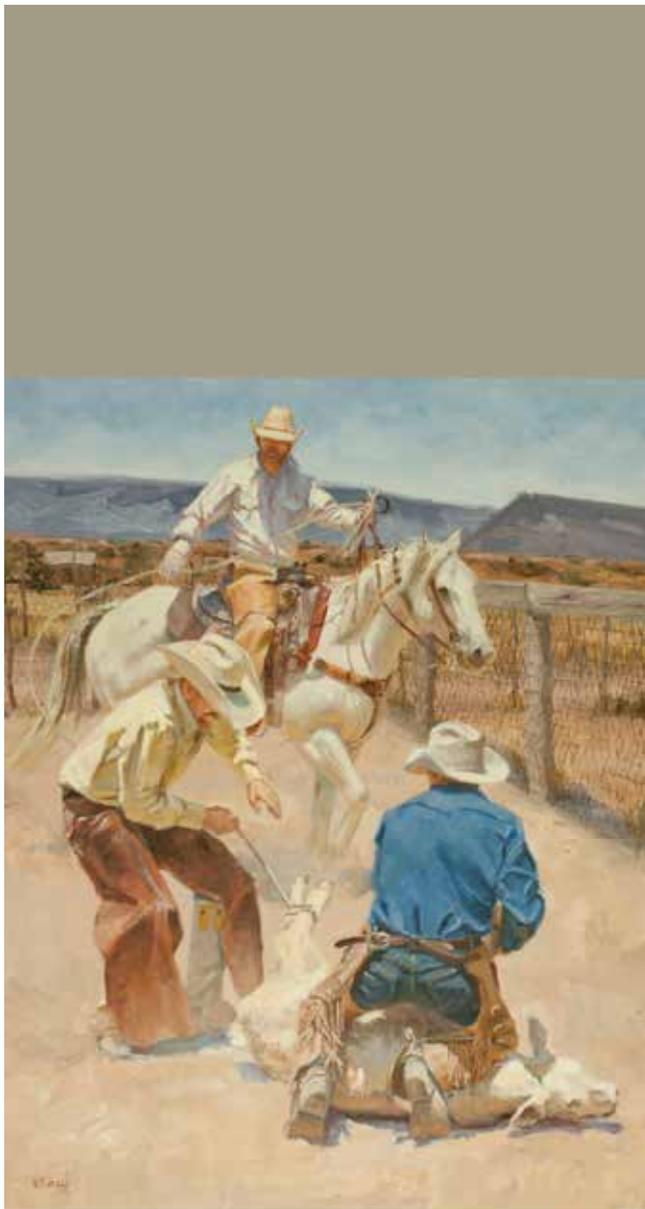
Edgar Sotelo

Sulphur Springs, Texas



Edgar Sotelo is a fourth generation artist who was born in Durango, Mexico. He came to the U.S. and graduated from Texas Tech University in 1988. He put himself through school and his pencil drawings helped to pay his expenses. He was encouraged by his wife to try oil painting in the early 1990s. For the past thirteen years the Sotelos and their three daughters have lived in Sulphur Springs on their ranch, *La Joya, The Jewel*, where they raise American Quarter Horses.

Sotelo believes in experiencing what he paints. He does this by attending *charreadas* in Texas and visiting ranches that allow him to ride along, giving him the opportunity to observe, record and preserve the *charro*/cowboy way of life. He is always looking for ranches and individuals who still do things much as they were done one-hundred years ago. Experiencing this first-hand has created a deeper respect and admiration for this vanishing culture and way of life.



Branding at the Sibleys
oil on canvas

Baru Spiller Wingate, Texas



Baru Spiller has had a life-long passion for good horses and custom gear. She started competing in horse shows and rodeos at age nine and hazed for her dad in steer wrestling. In the 1980s she founded and directed the Oakley Stampede Rodeo and was secretary of the Kansas State Rodeo Association.

She moved to Texas in 1987, and from 1990 to 1996, she served as a communications analyst and linguist in Military Intelligence during the Gulf War and Bosnian conflict. Upon discharge from the military, she bought a place near Poolville, and resumed her horse activities including working for the Fort Worth Herd. In 1998, Baru married Joe Spiller and they now call Wingate their home.

Baru recently won the Inaugural Amateur Ranching Heritage Challenge at the 2012 Fort Worth Stock Show, qualified for the 2012 National Reined Cow Horse World Show, and won the 2011 Stock Horse of Texas Non Pro Cowhorse Championship. Encouraged by her husband Joe, she began doing silverwork part-time in 2006. Baru deeply appreciates all the makers who are willing to share their time and knowledge.



Scarf Slide
sterling silver

Paul Van Dyke Sheridan, Wyoming



Paul Van Dyke's interest in good horses and fine gear began at an early age. The impact of Will James, the great Western artist and author, a love of history and good horsemen all combined to foster this interest. At the age of sixteen, Paul apprenticed to Ron Silverman learning how to make basic strap goods. By age eighteen, Don Butler was his mentor. It was under his tutelage that Paul learned the fundamentals of saddlery and saw this work as an art form. He worked for Butler for seven years; however he took time off during this period to cowboy as well as work for and with different horse trainers.

In May 2004, Van Dyke struck out on his own with a two pronged business that reflects his passions of building saddles and training horses. By using his own gear every day, he understands firsthand how the practical should combine with the beautiful. This combination is what Paul wants his horses and saddles to exhibit. They both should be balanced, refined and elegant but more than capable to meet the challenges of the ranch or arena.

Van Dyke and his wife have four children and they live near Sheridan, Wyoming.



Bowman Saddle
flower stamped

Nate Wald

Lodgegrass, Montana



After graduating from college and returning to his home near Lodgegrass to ranch with his father, Nate Wald braided his first pair of reins in the spring of 1989 and has been braiding steadily ever since. “My great-grandfather did some braiding. It was pretty rough work, but it was functional—neck ropes, whips, quirts,” says Wald, “and I just always liked braiding.”

Wald is constantly striving to improve the quality of his work with each new piece he braids. His work is designed to be used. “I want to make the finest, most beautiful, unique gear I can produce without losing tradition, functionality, or straight, clean work.”

By reading books on the craft and spending countless hours of braiding, Wald considers himself self-taught. A number of men, however, have been influential in the development of his work including Ed DuBeau, Bryan Neubert and Bill Dorrance. Wald is a member of the TCAA, Traditional Cowboy Arts Association.

Nate's work has been shown in the The Gathering of Gear exhibit in Elko, Nevada, and is in the permanent collection of gear at Elko's Western Folklife Center.



Ladies Quirt
braided rawhide
horsehide buttons

H.M. Wells

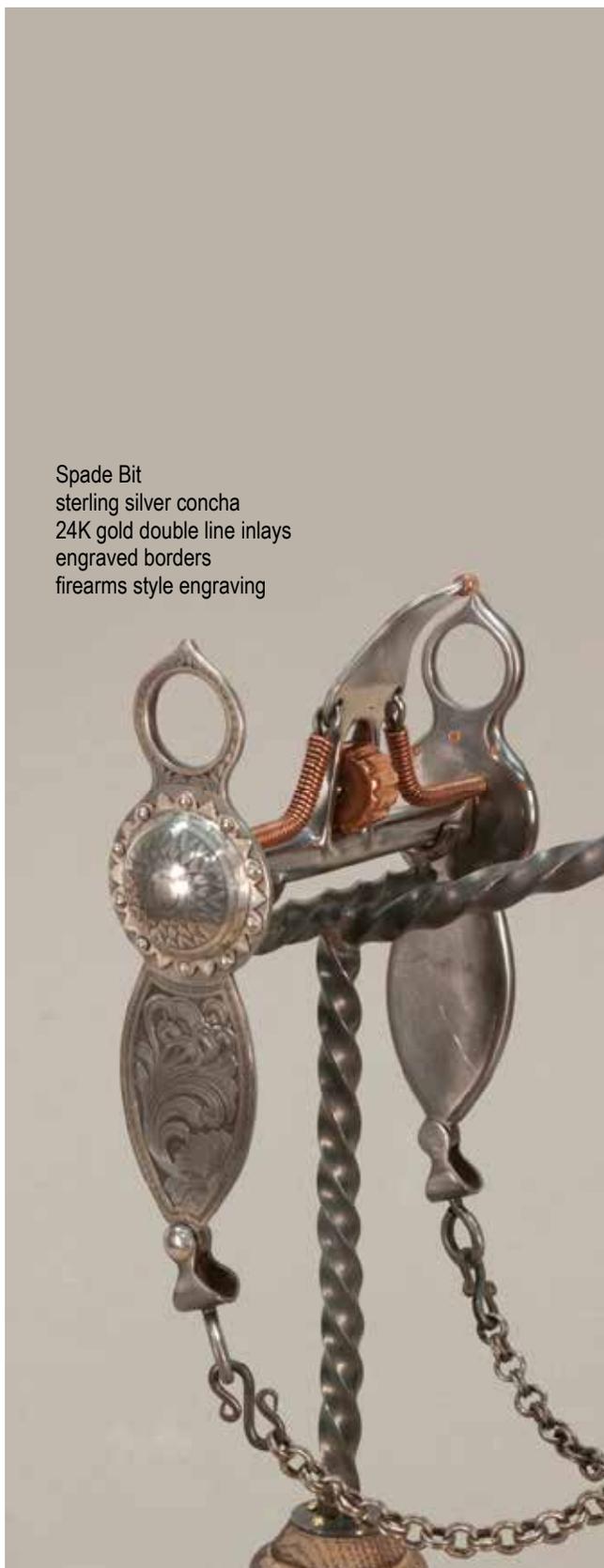
Penwell, Texas



H.M. Wells was spent over twenty-five years working on ranches in the sandhill region of West Texas. He fashioned his first set of spurs in 1978 using tools in the ranch shop. In 1984, he began building working-type cowboy saddles and opened a saddle shop. By 2000 he started making bits and spurs exclusively. Wells recalls, "When I started building this stuff, it was out of necessity because I couldn't afford to go to town to buy what I needed." Wells through his own field testing and the advice of "old timer cowboys" can offer his customers time proven gear.

Today H.M. works during the day as a metal fabricator and considers himself as a part-time builder, mostly of spurs and bits noted for their high relief firearms style of engraving. Wells acknowledges and thanks the help he has received from those cattlemen of yesteryear to the bit and spur makers and engravers of today who have set such high standards to follow and the knowledge they have shared with him.

Wells has shown his work in Trappings of Texas and at the Trappings of the American West exhibit at the Phippen Museum in Prescott, Arizona. He is a member of the International Guild of Bit and Spur Makers.



Spade Bit
sterling silver concha
24K gold double line inlays
engraved borders
firearms style engraving

Rygh Westby Sedona, Arizona



Image courtesy Jeannie Zimmerman

Rygh Westby, pronounced *Rig*, has worked on cow outfits, large and small, all over the West from Montana to Arizona, and some of these outfits still pulled a round up wagon, the horse-drawn kind.

A self-taught artist, Rygh painted at night while using bunkhouses or barns as his studio. While still working for the historic Padlock Ranch in Montana, he made his first sale of a painting through a gallery. Prior to that, Westby traded paintings for doctor bills, partial payments on a saddle, and the like. The sale of that small painting led to the creation of a body of work over the ensuing four decades. Most of the subjects for Westby's work are men he has worked with and the same is true of the horses he depicts.

Westby's art is in private and museum collections, including the bronze *Ain't A Horse That Can't Be Rode*, selected by the late Mr. Soichiro Honda for the Honda Motor Company Corporate Collection, the Buffalo Bill Museum, Golden, Colorado, Museum of the Big Bend, Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, Montana and the Bradford Brinton Museum, Big Horn, Wyoming. Rygh's work can also be found in the collections of other artists, a high compliment, indeed.



Fenceless
oil on canvas

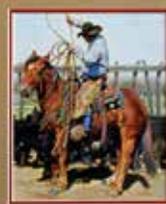
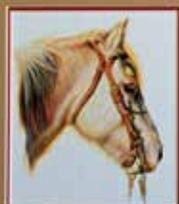
K.W. Whitley Cherokee, Texas



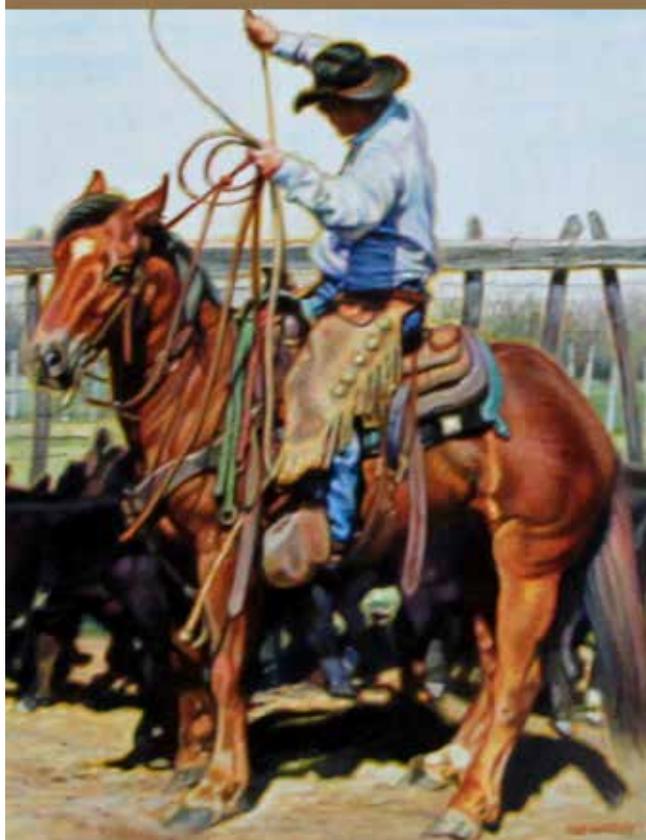
K.W. Whitley was born and raised west of Austin, Texas. She attended Westlake High School, and continued her education at the University of Texas, Austin, with emphasis on fine art and design. Her interest in art was nurtured and encouraged by her father, Ralph White, who was an accomplished artist and instructor with the University of Texas Art Department.

As a child, K.W. showed hunters and dressage horses, and then pursued eventing. The discipline and knowledge gained through enduring the training needed for such riding, she feels, helped tremendously in later endeavors. In addition, she day-worked for Buster Borchardt on his large cow/calf operation near Crowell, Texas. While working for him, she was exposed to the many aspects of daily ranch work.

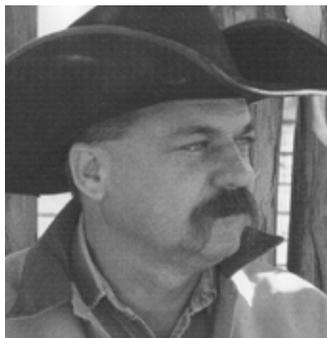
Currently, K.W. lives in Cherokee, Texas, and there in her studio she continues to explore, observe and translate her visual experiences and influences to canvas and paper, using both oil, or a combination of gouache and color pencil. Her work can be seen in numerous shows in the U.S. and at the River's Edge Gallery, Kerrville, Texas.



Ranch Essays
gouache and color pencil



Lonnie Williamson Midland, Texas



Lonnie Williamson was born in Midland, Texas, spending most of his time in and around the ranching business and he understands what works for the everyday working cowboy. He started building spurs and bits in 1991, and soon developed his own style and unique way of putting his craft into art. In 2000 after a bad horse wreck, Lonnie became a full time gear-maker. Williamson believes in building each piece from the ground up, without cutting corners. His spurs tell a story, with scorpions, snakes, hearts, and delicate flowers that flow with a unique style that he takes pride in.

Williamson is best known for his Chihuahua style spurs and the 'ring' he puts in his rowels. He and his wife Carol and son "Puncher", live just outside of Midland, where he runs his full time spur and bit business.

His work has been displayed at the Women's Protective Services Benefit and Auction in Lubbock, Texas, and Trappings of Texas.

Spurs
sterling silver with copper overlay



Stewart Williamson

Portales, New Mexico



Stewart Williamson grew up on his family's ranch in eastern New Mexico and spent his life working with cattle and horses. His family ran cows on the ranch, stocker cattle on leased country, and preconditioned feeder cattle to be finished out in commercial yards. This allowed Stewart to get an early education in many aspects of the cattle business. After graduating from high school in 1978, he continued to cowboy, both on his family's ranch and on numerous other ranches in the area.

From a very early age, he was interested in learning to build and engrave bits and spurs, but didn't have the time to start until he was forty-two years old. Williamson has had a lot of help from many makers, but he is most indebted to Johnny Weyerts, Wilson Capron, Mike Anders, Russell Yates, Joe Spilller and Jerry Falkner. Stewart says, "They have gone out of their way to teach and encourage me."

In 2004, Williamson got out of the cattle business and started building full time. He lives in Portales with his wife Toni. He has shown his work in numerous Trappings of Texas exhibits.

Bit
sterling silver and steel



Russell Yates

Rotan, Texas



West Texas native, Russell Yates has spent his entire life in Rotan, Texas, and is part of the third generation involved in the family farming and ranching tradition that includes cow/calf and yearling operations. Cowboy gear is a natural part of his environment and Yates grew up using lots of it.

Although he still manages his family's interest in the farming and ranching operation, he has been making bits and spurs full-time since 2000. While he still makes some traditional Texas-style pieces, by blending in California and buckaroo styles, his work has become a very appealing, high-quality hybrid of the two styles.

His work has been seen at the Women's Protective Services Benefit Auction in Lubbock, Texas, and in Trappings of Texas. Yates is a member of the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association.

Texas Style Bit
sterling silver overlay



Don Yena San Antonio, Texas



Recognized as “a historian with a brush and palette”, Don Yena was honored with a special Texas Senate Resolution in 1981, praising his contributions to Southwestern art and the state of Texas.

He was recently honored with a major exhibit of his original oil paintings at the prestigious Witte Museum in San Antonio. These works depict the cattle industry from round ups, to trail drives, to the oil industry on ranch lands.

Yena grew up in Medina County near the historic town of Castroville. These surroundings are a big part of his life even today. He and his supportive wife, Louise, a retired school teacher, spend much of their time on their ranch property, not far from their childhood homes. It is there that Yena paints the familiar sights of the West Texas: cattle, wildlife, the cycles of occasional droughts and booming thunderstorms so evident in his vivid and detailed paintings. He is also known as an advanced collector and authority on important Western artifacts.

Vaqueros From the Sierra Madre
oil on canvas



TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS CONTACT INFORMATION

Abbott, Larry
PO Box 11
Dickens, Texas 79229
(806) 789-9029
lpabbott@yahoo.com

Anders, Mike
12105 Pecan Lane
San Angelo, Texas 76904
(325) 277-9420
mike@andersgear.com

Asher, Brian
8357 CR 3105
Snyder, Texas 79549
(325) 574-2541
asherbrian@hotmail.com

Baize, Wayne
HCR 74, Box 53
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
(432) 426-3796
wbaizeca@yahoo.com

Ballantyne, Vern
PO Box 339
Unity, Saskatchewan S0K4L0
Canada
(306) 228-3195

Basso, Keith
PO Box 577
Heber, Arizona 85928
(928) 535-5306
ggpb@mac.com

Blake, Buckeye
1700 HWY N. FM 52
Weatherford, Texas 76088
(940) 682-7448
buckeyeb1978@aol.com

Blake, Teal
401 Dove Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76088
(940) 682-4086
tealblake@rocketmail.com

Bolton, Brody
2108 Bonham
Odessa, Texas 79761
432-559-2940
brody_bolton@yahoo.com

Bones, Jim
PO Box 2111
Alpine, Texas 79831-2111
(432) 364-2581
jimbones@bigbend.net

Butters, Braidie
25825 South County Line
Homer, Michigan 49245
(517) 936-3226
bbutters2004@hotmail.com

Capron, Mike
3408 ECR 150
Midland, Texas 79706
(432) 238-2005
mikecapron@gmail.com

Capron, Wilson W.
3500 ECR 150
Midland, Texas 79706
(432) 967-0684
wkcapron@gmail.com

Crow, Tyler
Route 2, Box 179
Apache, Oklahoma 73006
(580) 588-2321
ctytan@pldi.net

TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS CONTACT INFORMATION

Crowe, Angie
1894 Chimney Valley Road
Blanco, Texas 78606
(830) 833-2905
raincrow@moment.net

Deferrari, Armando
Pinto 408
Buenos Aires, Pergamino, 2700
Argentina
+54- 02477- 435301
contacto@armandodeferrari.com.ar

Donley, Vince
1275 Pass Creek Drive
Parkman, Wyoming 82838
(307) 655-2223
donleyrawhide@fiberpipe.net

Douglas, Vandy
2047 Coffen Avenue
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801
(307) 674-6679
vandydouglas.com

Elliott, Teresa
3513 High Countryside Drive
Grapevine, Texas 76051
(817) 988-0429
teresaelliott@mac.com

Etcheverry, Etienne "A-10"
PO Box 3713
Truth or Consequences, New Mexico
87901
(505) 263-3521
crayola-cowboy@yahoo.com

Fort, Curtis
PO Box 797
Tatum, New Mexico 88267
(575) 398-6423
curtisfortbronze@aol.com

Franklin, Wayne
PO Box 738
Cotulla, Texas 78014
(830) 879-5457
franklinsilver@hotmail.com

Galloway, Jerry
514 Bradley Lane
Dumas, Texas 79029
(806) 935-6590
jmgal@amaonline.com

Gilmore, Jim
3731 South 105 Road
Alamosa, Colorado 81101
(719) 580-3456
jimgilmoreart@hotmail.com

Greene, Bruce
2782 FM 182
Clifton, Texas 76634-5109
(254) 675-2424
Bruce@BruceGreeneArt.com

Hagel, Sara Douglas
PO Box 487
Dayton, Wyoming 82836
(307) 655-3275
sara@mecates.com

Hardy, Scott
PO Box 40
Longview, Alberta T0L1H0
Canada
(403) 558-2337
scott@scotthardy.com

Hensley, Leland
PO Box 25
Meridian, Texas 76665
(254)-717-7335
leland@lelandhensley.com

TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS CONTACT INFORMATION

Holden, Harold "H"
2807 W. H. Holden Road
Kremlin, Oklahoma 73753
(580) 874-2360
ednamae@hholden.com

Humphreys, Matt
1119 CR 360
Spur, Texas 79370
(806) 781-8025
mthxx@yahoo.com

Jones, Stephen
51331 SCR 193
Woodward, Oklahoma 73801
(580) 216-1102
oneshot06@hotmail.com

King, Krist
PO Box 51
Archbold, Ohio 43502
(419) 445-4277

Klapper, Billy
1231 South Finley
Pampa, Texas 79065
(806) 665-6454
silverspur@nts-online.net

Ladner, Joyce
355 Stewart Drive
Pueblo West, Colorado 81007
(580)-380-1906
alwaysjoyce.rutpp@gmail.com

Lozano, Pablo
La Madrid 204
Buenos Aires, Tandil, 7000
Argentina
+54 2293- 446059
trenzapatria@yahoo.com.ar

Mapes, Jan
98800 CR 563
Kim, Colorado 81049
(719) 980-6089
email@janmapes.com

Marsh, Ernie
PO Box 738
Thayne, Wyoming 83127
(307) 880-1101
marshbrothers@silverstar.com

Martiny, Nancy
159 Hooper Lane
May, Idaho 83253
(208) 876-4227
martinysaddle@yahoo.com

McConnell, Loyd
309 CR 144-B
Marble Falls, Texas 78654
(830) 798-8087
ccknives@ccknives.com

McConnell, Sharon
5183 N FM 219
Dublin, Texas 76446
(254) 485-0170
smcconnell@gmail.com

McCumber, Rick
PO Box 560
George West, Texas 78022
(361) 449-1492
mccumber@fnbnet.net

Montefusco, Carlos
Holmberg 549
Buenos Aires, Huinca Renanco, 7000
Argentina
+54 02293- 443293
montefuscopintor@yahoo.com.ar

TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS CONTACT INFORMATION

Moreland, Glenn
PO Box 594
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
(512) 627-3793
glenn@texcowboy.com

Olson, Whit
30765 E. Earhart Road
Schell City, Missouri 64783
(406) 599-0125
whit@whitolson.com

Pardue, Mike
5314 ECR 128
Midland, Texas 79706
(432) 894-7600
mikepardue@ymail.com

Peebles, Pee Wee
PO Box 433
Marathon, TX 79842
(432) 345-6719
pwpeebles@gmail.com

Poulain, Benoit
6822 CR 3223
Lone Oak, Texas 75453
(903) 662-5602
poulain@cumbytel.com

Powell, Dave
PO Box 265
Sims, Montana 59477
(406) 264-5204
davepowellstudios@yahoo.com

Ramos, Ruben
PO Box 756
Jal, New Mexico 88252
(575) 390-0496
mrmos99@yahoo.com

Ribeyrol, Javier
3855 Southwest 128th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33175
(786) 253-6639
javierribeyrol@hotmail.com

Robbins, Peter
2814 Simondale Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76109
(214)-616-4635
www.peterrobbinsart.com

Sackett, John David
8911 Enchanted Elm
Boerne, Texas 78015
(210) 842-2701
johndsackett@gmail.com

Schwarz, Cary
132 Williams Creek Road
Salmon, Idaho 83467
(208) 756-8383
caryschwarz@gmail.com

Scull, Jason
418 8th Street SE, C-1
Loveland, Colorado 80537
(512)-757-2324
JasonScull@jasonscull.com

Seidel, Keith
1200 Sheridan Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414
(307) 587-1200
keith@seidelsaddlery.com

Severns, Lindy Cook
PO Box 2167
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
(806) 789-6513
lindycseverns@aol.com

TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS CONTACT INFORMATION

Sevier, Chessney
PO Box 232
Glendo, Wyoming 82213
(307)-359-0631
contact@chessneysevier.com

Sotelo, Edgar
3674 CR 1174
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482
(903) 485-2011
soteloart@gmail.com

Spiller, Baru
2702 CR209
Wingate, Texas 79566
(325) 673-6662
baru@spillerranch.com

Van Dyke, Paul
3842 HWY 87
Banner, Wyoming 82382
(307) 673-5783
paul@vandykesaddlery.com

Wald, Nate
HC 45, Box 810
Lodgegrass, Montana 59050
(406) 639-2219

Wells, H.M.
PO Box 347
Penwell, Texas 79776
(432) 530-9284
wtcowboy.msn.com

Westby, Rygh
360 Elmersville Road
Sedona, Arizona 86336

Whitley, K.W.
604 W. FM 501
Cherokee, Texas 76832
(325) 622-4016
kwwhitley12@yahoo.com

Williamson, Lonnie
1305 SCR 1127
Midland, Texas 79706
(432) 631-7397
lonnie.williamson69@yahoo.com

Williamson, Stewart
1649 SR Road 4
Portales, New Mexico 88130
(575) 760-3320
sw@custombitsandspurs.com

Yates, Russell
708 East Burnside
Rotan, Texas 79546
(325) 721-5236
russellyates@sbcglobal.net

Yena, Donald M.
212 Sunway Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78232
(210) 494-5371

