



COLLECTOR'S FOCUS
ART OF THE COWBOY

Saddle Up

By John O'Hern



1. Legacy Gallery, *Granite Dells Remuda*, oil, 24 x 48", by Russell Houston.

"I've always been around horses," Jim Rey says. "I had a mustang at the age of 6 and I did a lot of cowboying at the cattle ranches in the Bay Area." He knows the nuances of a horse's body and its reactions in different situations. As a horseman he knows every action and response of the cowboy. Today, his studio is

in the pasture of his ranch with horses right outside the door for easy reference.

Bringing Back the Delinquents depicts three recalcitrant horses being directed home by a determined cowboy. The central horse is slightly to the right of the center line of the canvas, emphasizing the powerful action of their movement. It is an indeterminate time of

day—the cowboy's vigilance being called on at any time of the day and in any weather.

In Tom Browning's *Bringin' in the Strays* the dust of the chase is settling as the cowboy prepares to lasso one of his charges. The momentary stillness of the horses and the potential action of the lasso are caught in a dusty, low afternoon light. He says simply, but

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profoundly, "It's all about the light." He began drawing horses, wildlife and Indians when he was 7 years old. In 2009 he was inducted into Cowboy Artists of America, the same year he won the *Prix de West* Purchase Award.

Russell Houston grew up on the family ranch in Arizona and painted Western scenes at night. He happened upon a 1900s photograph of two men playing golf with their horses nearby and was inspired to begin

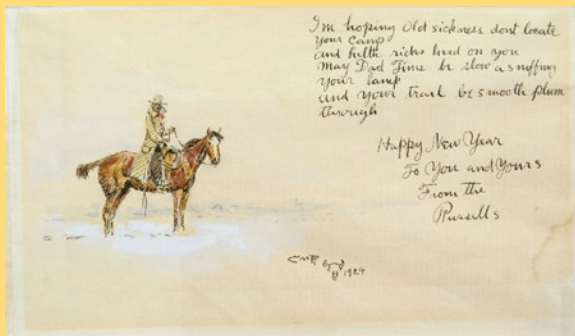
humorous paintings of cowboys playing golf. He continues to paint traditional Western paintings such as *Granite Dells Remuda*, a cowboy hard at work. He is known, in his work, for his command of the subtleties of the changing light in the wide open spaces of the Southwest, often the warm, low light of the rising or setting sun. A remuda is a herd of saddle-trained horses managed by a wrangler who brings the horses in for

ranch hands to choose their mount. During a roundup they can change mounts several times a day.

Mikel Donahue is another master of Western light. He was born and raised in Tulsa and introduced to the life of the cowboy at his paternal grandfather's cattle ranch in northern Oklahoma. His maternal grandfather introduced him to the art of the West. He now breeds quarter horses...and paints. He



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2. InSight Gallery, *Bringin' in Strays*, oil, 16 x 36", by Tom Browning. 3. Trailside Galleries, *Needles in a Haystack*, acrylic, 13 x 17", by Mikel Donahue. 4. Claggett/Rey Gallery, *Bringing Back the Delinquents*, oil, 24 x 20", by Jim Rey. 5. C.M. Russell Museum, *The Jerkline*, 1912, oil on canvas, 24 1/4 x 36", by Charles M. Russell (1864-1926). 6. C.M. Russell Museum, *I'M HOPING OLD SICKNESS...*, 1924, watercolor, pen and ink, 3 3/8 x 6", by Charles M. Russell (1864-1926). 7. Manitou Galleries, *Back from the Roundup*, oil on canvas, 20 x 30", by Frank Hoffman (1888-1958). 8. Manitou Galleries, *Wild Bill*, bronze, ed. 7 of 11, 48 x 24 x 28", by Greg Woodard.

has been a member of the Cowboy Artists of America since 2016. The last rays of sunlight light up the horse and rider as well as the tops of the shrubs and the mountain shadows spread across the landscape.

Throughout this special collector's focus, readers will find a variety of other examples of artwork that channel the spirit of the cowboy.

The artwork of one of the great masters of

Western art, Charles M. Russell, undoubtedly calls upon sentiments of the West and that of the hardworking nature of cowboys. The **C.M. Russell Museum** in Great Falls, Montana, focuses on the works of this historic artist. "America's cowboy artist, **Charles M. Russell**, lived the life he recorded in his art," says the museum's executive director Tom Figarella. "Many of the subjects in his paintings and

sculptures were real people and friends of his, such as wagonmaster Johnny Matheson seen in *The Jerkline*...Russell always saw the holiday season as a time to celebrate friendships like the one he and Matheson shared. Each year he would close his studio to visitors, pulling the latch-string shut and went to work crafting small works of art to present as gifts during Christmas and

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9. Manitou Galleries, *Welcome Shortcut*, oil on canvas, 24 x 36", by Colt Idol. **10. Wild Horse Gallery, *Looking for the Next One***, oil, 24 x 36", by Richard Galusha. **11. Wild Horse Gallery, *Wyoming Branding***, oil, 15 x 30", by Richard Galusha. **12. Wild Horse Gallery, *Saddle Up***, oil, 16 x 20", by Richard Galusha. **13. Marti Miller Hubbell, *Coiled and Ready***, colored pencil on suede mat, 14 x 12" **14. Marti Miller Hubbell, *Classic California***, colored pencil on suede mat, 16 x 13" **15. Marti Miller Hubbell, *Summer School***, colored pencil on suede mat, 17 x 15"

New Year's. Many of these works showcase Russell's familiar Western characters partaking in the holiday spirit."

At **Cowboy Classics Art Show and Sale**, part of the *Arizona National Livestock Show*, guests have the opportunity to buy quality Western art in a variety of mediums. The show, held at the Wesley Bolin Youth Building in Phoenix, is December 29 through 31, with a reception on December 28. Several of the event's artists have

experienced the cowboy life, which heavily influences and inspires their work.

Hailing from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, **Den Schofield** is a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Art and has traveled the West extensively. Schofield's work represents the 19th century and doesn't shy away from the graphic nature of that period in history. Now living in Wyoming, Schofield is influenced by such artists as Winslow Homer,

Frederick Remington, N.C. Wyeth and the French impressionists.

Bronze art by sculptor **Bob Scriver** can be found at **Kelly's Collectibles and Online Art Gallery**. Scriver was born in 1914 in the Blackfeet Reservation town of Browning, Montana. During his long career, Scriver created more than 1,000 sculptures. He was adept at capturing the spirit and essence of rodeo and was also recognized for his classic



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sculptures of the Blackfoot Indians.

Kim Frank Fujiwara paints a multitude of subject matters, which includes the American West and all of the cowboy imagery that comes along with it. Works like *Cowboy Coffee* depict wranglers in a more laid-back

state, taking a break while their horses graze, while *Ride of Retribution* shows a team of riders in action on horseback. The artist works from his studio in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

With two locations in Santa Fe, New Mexico, **Manitou Galleries** continues to

collect and commission a wide variety of cowboy art. This iconic genre has evolved rapidly from a more traditional style to contemporary, influenced by pop culture and mixed media. When it comes to the cowboy, Manitou Galleries is constantly looking for

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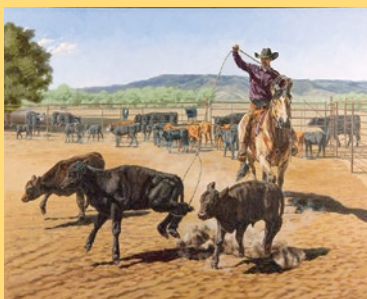
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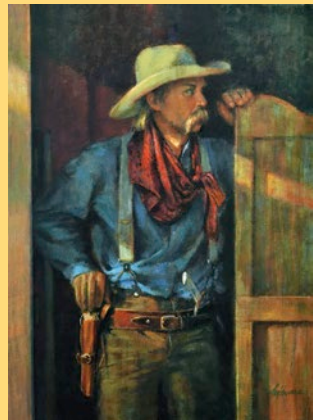
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16. Cowboy Classics Art Show and Sale, *If Horses Could Talk*, pen and ink, 10 x 16", by Joe Milazzo. 17. Cowboy Classics Art Show and Sale, *Workin' Out the Kinks*, oil, 30 x 20", by Kelly Donovan. 18. Trailside Galleries, *Rather Be a Cowboy*, oil, 24 x 18", by Robert Duncan. 19. Trailside Galleries, *Spring on the South Rim*, acrylic, 24 x 34", by Mikel Donahue. 20. Sherry Cobb, *Horse Play*, oil on linen panel, 12 x 9" 21. Sherry Cobb, *Gotcha*, oil on linen panel, 24 x 30" 22. Raymond Gibby, *For the Love of Texas*, bronze, ed. of 35, 18 x 23 x 10" 23. Raymond Gibby, *The Peacemaker*, bronze, ed. of 20, 12 x 16 x 3" 24. Kim Frank Fujiwara, *Cowboy Coffee*, oil, 18 x 24" 25. Raymond Gibby, *Spirit of Strength*, bronze, ed. of 20, 25 x 11 x 12" 26. Den Schofield, *The Last Watch*, oil on canvas, 18 x 24" 27. Kim Frank Fujiwara, *Saloon Day Afternoon*, oil, 24 x 18"

new approaches to representing these timeless characters.

"Details and accurate portrayals are why I paint. I love to capture the moments that not everyone gets to see every day in the moments of the ranching world," says equine painter **Sherry Cobb**. "Growing up in the ranching business and learning the daily routines always include the branding of the calves before they

go to the high country pasture every spring. This piece is one of those days in the branding pen," she says of her oil *Gotcha*, showing a wrangler rounding up a group of skittish calves. "There is always that one that eludes the ropers until the very end. When you're roping and finally get him roped by two feet, it's a 'gotcha' moment!" she says.

Husband and wife team **Shirley Stocks**

and **Richard Galusha**, both artists, own **Wild Horse Gallery** in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Galusha, who grew up on a ranch in west Texas and developed a love for drawing horses, has an upcoming exhibition at Steamboat Art Museum titled *An Artist's Journey*. The exhibition glimpses the career of one of Steamboat's most prominent artists featuring approximately 80 paintings from

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28. Kim Frank Fujiwara, *Ride of Retribution*, oil, 22 x 36" **29. Kelly's Collectibles and Online Art Gallery**, *Budding Buckaroo*, bronze, limited ed. 7 of 150, 22 x 10 x 11", by Bob Scriver **30. Den Schofield**, *Keeper of the Peace*, oil on canvas, 16 x 20"

collectors, including many plein air paintings from Galusha's world travels. He uses bold color with an impressionistic style to portray the landscapes, cowboys and Western history of the Yampa Valley, northwestern Colorado and the Little Snake River Valley.

"There is beauty found in struggle," says bronze sculptor **Raymond Gibby**, "and struggle is largely what defines the life of the cowboy. They battle the elements, the terrain, the livestock, their finances and their own bodies.

They triumph when they learn to work with these things and not against them. Courage is at the heart of the story of those that live the cowboy lifestyle. As an artist and as one that has raised cattle myself, that spirit speaks to me." Gibby advises collectors to "always try to find artwork with soul. Artwork shouldn't just be nice to look at but should also breathe life into your world."

Marti Miller Hubbell, a self-taught artist, lives on a ranch near Hollister, California.

The artist works primarily in colored pencil and oil but occasionally uses graphite, acrylic and more recently, watercolor. "No matter the medium, what I am trying to express is my love for the American West and my California ranching heritage, while giving equal importance to honesty and accuracy. These are scenes from my life," says Hubbell. "Good contemporary Western art is both a tribute to our past and a reminder that the cowboy way of life still exists in the 21st century." 🐾

FEATURED ARTISTS & GALLERIES

Claggett/Rey Gallery

100 E. Meadow Drive, Suite 7, Vail, CO 81657
(970) 476-9350, maggie@claggettrei.com

C.M. Russell Museum

400 13th Street North, Great Falls, MT
(406) 727-8787, www.cmrussell.org

Cowboy Classics Art Show and Sale

Arizona National Livestock Show
1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ
(602) 258-8568, www.anls.org/cowboyclassics
cowboyclassics@anls.org

Den Schofield

501 Peak Drive, Riverton, WY 82501
(307) 463-2207, (307) 240-1673
denschofield@gmail.com, www.denschofield.com

InSight Gallery

214 W. Main Street, Fredericksburg, TX 78624
(830) 997-9920, info@insightgallery.com
www.insightgallery.com

Kelly's Collectibles and Online Art Gallery

(406) 885-6728, www.kellyscollectiblesmt.com

Kim Frank Fujiwara

Rochester Hills, MI, (248) 840-0551
fujiaart57@comcast.net, www.kfgallery.com

Legacy Gallery

75 N. Cache Street, Jackson, WY 83001
(307) 733-2353, www.legacygallery.com

Manitou Galleries

123 W. Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, NM
(505) 986-0440
225 Canyon Road, Santa Fe, NM
(505) 983-9866, info@manitougalleries.com
www.manitougalleries.com

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Sherry Cobb

The Painted Horse Studio
1153 1200 Road, Delta, CO 81416
(970) 874-7105, (970) 216-3396
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Trailside Galleries

130 E. Broadway Avenue, Jackson, WY 83001
(307) 733-3186, info@trailsidegalleries.com,
www.trailsidegalleries.com

Wild Horse Gallery

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www.wildhorsegallery.com