

INSIDE Jackson Hole Art Auction • Kyle Polzin • Quest for the West • Wildlife Art

Previews of Works For Sale at Upcoming Shows

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97

WESTERN ART

C O L L E C T O R



Wonders of the West

The 34th annual Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale attracts more than 100 Western artists for monthlong festivities.

When the *Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale* debuted in Cody, Wyoming, 34 years ago, about 20 artists showed their Western work in a hotel room. For the 34th annual event this year, nearly 110 artists are exhibiting their work at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, the majority of which have returned year after year to show off their art, participate in artist workshops and lectures, and paint in a quick draw.

"There's everything from impressionistic, to very detailed historic work, to realistic work," says Kathy Thompson, who started out as an event volunteer 10 years ago and has been director for the past eight years. "There's a great variety for everyone who enjoys art, and you get to meet artists one-on-one, as they're sitting at dinners and are at receptions and parties."

The monthlong exhibition is currently on display, and beginning Saturday, September 19, almost daily special events include live music, art classes, lunch-and-lectures, and a party expected to attract more than 650 attendees. Thompson estimates more than 85 percent of visitors to the weeklong events come from out of town, making the show and sale a reunion for contemporary Western artists from around the country.

Sculptor Chris Navarro, who will be

participating in the show for his 24th year and is the 2015 Honored Artist, says the event is hands-down his favorite show to attend. The Casper, Wyoming, resident's first quick draw experience 20 years ago was at this event, and this year, one of the works he'll be exhibiting is *Buffalo Runner*. The piece was inspired by a Native American warrior hunter herding bison in buffalo jumps.

After a full-speed horse wreck after last year's exhibition, which left Navarro with nine broken bones, a collapsed lung and a concussion, Navarro is eager to return this year.

"It is a great privilege to have been selected as the Honored Artist for the 2015 Buffalo Bill Art Show," says Navarro. "Over 100 of the best artists in the country are showing their work here, and I have been fortunate to call many of them friends...I have found something I have a great love and passion for in sculpting, and I hope others can see that through the works I have created."

Another returning artist, Dustin Van Wechel, comes to the event from Scottsdale, Arizona, for the fourth year. Van Wechel will be showing a painting called *Right of Way*, which was inspired by a trip to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The painting captures a moose and its calf at



Watercolor artist Teal Blake paints during the 2014 *Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale Quick Draw*, at the Robbie Powwow Grounds adjacent to the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

a pond, in harmony with other wildlife, such as the nearby duck. He says he hopes viewers can relate to the story being told in the painting and may even be reminded of an experience they've had in the West, and he looks forward to the event he calls "a great mix of classic sophistication and Western charm."

"The museum is world-class, and the live auction/dinner event encourages a relaxed and fun atmosphere while also managing to be elegant and refined," says Van Wechel. "If you love art like I do, Cody, Wyoming, during the Buffalo Bill show should be on your list of Western art destinations."

Rox Corbett, from Powell, Wyoming, also brings a wildlife-inspired work to the show, a charcoal on rag paper piece featuring a mountain lion titled *Until the Night*. This is Corbett's fifth year exhibiting after attending for many years, and she says Cody's proximity to Yellowstone National Park serves as great inspiration to visiting artists.

"I would encourage art lovers to attend the event because it's a collection of world-class

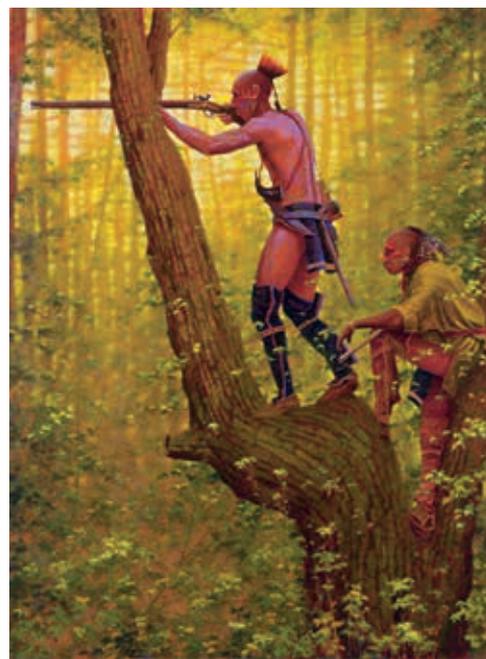


Chris Navarro, *Buffalo Runner*, bronze, 17 x 28 x 7"





Dustin Van Wechel, *Right of Way*, oil, 24 x 30"



Doug Hall, *The Ambush - The Battle of Blue Lick*, 1782, oil, 40 x 30"



Brett James Smith, *Riverside Camp*, oil, 30 x 40"



Rox Corbett, *Until the Night*, charcoal on rag paper, 21 x 25¾"

Western art from both well-established and emerging artists, it helps support the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, and because Cody is a fun and friendly little town," says Corbett.

Landscape artist Paul Waldum agrees and will be coming back to the event for his 10th year, exhibiting a pastel painting of a barn scene and participating in the quick draw event.

"The *Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale* is one

of our country's premiere Western art shows and auctions," says Waldum, based in Gillette, Wyoming. "This event attracts people from many states and creates a significant amount of energy and enthusiasm from its viewers, clients and artists. Art enthusiasts enjoy viewing artwork, meeting artists and purchasing art from many renowned artists." 🐾

Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale

When: August 26-September 25, 2015; September 19-26, various classes, lectures, receptions and more at various times and locations; September 26, 9 a.m., Quick Draw & Brunch, \$40 tickets required

Where: Buffalo Bill Center for the West, 720 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY 82414

Information: (888) 598-8119, www.buffalobillartshow.net