

Historical Artists of the Horse in Flathead Valley Collections

Edward Borein (1872-1945)

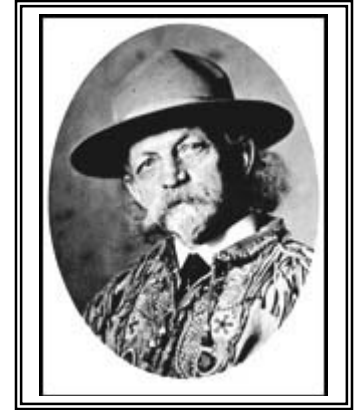
Edward Borein was born in San Leandro, California. At the age of 17, he left school to work with a saddle maker. He then worked for several years as a cowboy, constantly sketching and occasionally sending his drawings to magazines for illustration. He spent a month in 1891 at the San Francisco Art Association, where he met Maynard Dixon, who would gain notice as an important painter of the desert country. Leaving art school, Borein hired on as a cowboy at the Jesus Maria Rancho in Santa Barbara and then at a ranch in Malibu. The owner, who admired the young man's sketches, staked him to an extended sketching tour of Mexico. When he returned, Borein joined the "San Francisco Call" as a staff artist, earning eight dollars a week - even less than cowboy pay. With Dixon, Borein toured the Sierras, Carson City, and parts of Oregon and Idaho in 1901, returning to Mexico two years later. It was during this trip that he began making watercolors. In 1904, he settled in Oakland where he painted and produced some sculpture. After many years of marginal work, he became a very successful illustrator for the great magazines of the day: "Harper's", "Collier's", "Sunset", "Century", and "Western World". He became one of the most popular artists in America, gaining national fame and associating with the likes of Charles Russell, James Swinnerton, Maynard Dixon, Will James, Olaf Seltzer, Carl Oscar Borg, and western celebrities including Will Rogers and Leo Carillo. In 1891, Borein started etching. He produced a large number of etchings that were very popular and sold well. At the suggestion of Russell, Borein went to Canada in 1912, where he worked for two years. In 1921, Borein married and settled in Santa Barbara where he lived for the rest of his life. He continued his etching and illustrating. He was called the "cowpuncher artist" and throughout his life he lived the part, always wearing the colorful outfit of the cowboy. He died in Santa Barbara on May 19, 1945, at the age of 72.

E. E. Heikka (1910-1941)

One of the most talented and tragic of the Narrative Realists was Earle Heikka. Growing up in Great Falls, Montana, he was directly influenced by Charles Russell. During Heikka's early school years, he developed a stuttering speech impediment. This handicap, coupled with dire poverty, contributed to poor school attendance. However, his interest and ability in clay modeling broadened, and, though he grew up watching Russell paint and sculpt, Heikka is considered to be self-taught. By the time he was 18, his models of clay, papier-mâché, plaster, wood, leather and cloth were receiving critical acclaim. Most of his work featured pack trains, stagecoaches, and cowboys and Indians in action. He also worked as a taxidermist and constructed dioramas. His finances improved as his work began to sell, and in 1929 he sculpted cowboys at the Gary Cooper Ranch. Unfortunately, though, his life soon ended at the age of 31. It is claimed that he killed himself with a bullet, however some researchers believe the shooting could have been accidental. Very few of his original sculptures had been cast in bronze at the time of his death. It was 35 years before his work was again appreciated.

Edgar Paxson (1852-1919)

Paxson was born in East Hamburg, New York, near Buffalo, on April 25, 1852. His father, William Hamilton Paxson, had a carriage-building business. After attending the Friends' Institute school, Edgar entered his father's business, painting carriages and signs. His experience as a sign painter probably introduced him to skills he would later develop as an artist, but there is no evidence that Edgar Paxson received formal art training at this time.



In 1874 he married Laura Johnson, and the following year he set out for the West. Paxson worked for a stagecoach company, as a guide, and at other frontier jobs that provided experiences he would later use in his art. In 1878 he brought his family to Deer Lodge, Montana, where he painted signs and scenery for theatrical backdrops. In 1881 they moved to Butte, where Paxson continued painting scenery, but also established a studio and produced easel paintings of historical subjects and portraits of Indians. The artist also maintained his love of the outdoors, going on hunting and camping trips. Under the name "Pistol Grip," he wrote articles about trapshooting and subjects of interest to the hunter for *The American Field*, a sportsman's journal. He also enlisted in the Montana National Guard, where he developed friendships with military leaders of the region.

Paxson arrived in Montana in 1877, the year after the Battle of the Little Bighorn. His interest in the battle would become a defining element in his artistic career, culminating in his major work, *Custer's Last Stand*, now in the collections of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

Paxson exhibited paintings at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904, and the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland in 1905, as well as other venues outside Montana. He moved to Missoula, Montana in 1906. In 1911 he was commissioned to paint six scenes of Montana history for the Senate chambers at the Montana Capitol in Helena. The following year, he was commissioned to execute eight paintings for the Missoula County Courthouse. Edgar Paxson died November 9, 1919.

O.C. Seltzer (1877-1957)

Olaf Carl Seltzer was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in either 1877 (although there is conflicting history that it was 1881), and died in Great Falls, Montana, in 1957. He was an important traditional Russell-school western painter, illustrator, and miniaturist. When he was 12, Seltzer studied sketching at the Danish Art School and Polytechnic Institute in Copenhagen. When he was 14, he immigrated to Great Falls, Montana, with his mother and worked there briefly as a cowboy. He was hired as an apprentice machinist for the Great Northern Railroad, then as a locomotive repairman. In his spare time Seltzer made sketches in pen and ink. At 20, he began to paint in oil, encouraged by a Canadian patron.

His style was similar to his neighbor, Charles Russell, who had encouraged him and who painted with him on trips. At 44, he became a full-time painter when he was laid off by the railroad. He was immediately successful as a Russell disciple, going to New York City in 1926 to complete some of Russell's commissions. In 1930, a wealthy patron, Dr. Phillip Cole, engaged him to paint a series of miniatures on Montana history. After 100 works painted under a magnifying glass, his sight weakened so that thereafter he could paint only in bright light. Nevertheless, he completed over 2,500 paintings. He is ranked as an important western painter today, in his lifetime Seltzer appeared colorless under the shadow of the personality of Charles Russell.

Cecil Alden Smith (1910-1984)

Experts in the field of Western art have called Cecil Smith "the Dean of Cowboys who are Artists" with good reason. He has ridden more miles on horseback, punched more cows, and worked as range riding cowboy more than any other artist of record. Smith earned his livelihood as a professional buckaroo during those years when cowboy life consisted of living in open wilderness where livestock roamed free and unhindered by allotments and range rights. Fences were few and far between, livestock owners shared the range in common, and the grass belonged to every cattleman who owned a cow or horse. Those were the wonderful years when Cecil Smith gained the firsthand experience which qualifies him to paint personal events and those of his cowboy friends—the years of famous Rare Breed cowboys such as Charles M. Russell, Bill Gollings, Will James, Ross Santee, Edward Borein, Joe Martin and Cecil Smith.

Cecil has involved himself in a lifetime of Western art, 69 years of it to date. From the time he was old enough to hold a pencil, he was busy drawing wild range horses and cattle, cowboys and Indians and those especially "Western" subjects he has known since birth. Cecil's family provided him with the best and most sophisticated art education money could buy. He was personally tutored by three of America's greatest masters - Max Weber, John Carroll and Yasuo Kunlyoshi.

Studying the great expressionist painters, Cecil learned art principles, which were trained by the ancient masters and are prominent in every valuable work of art. Two important factors contribute to a cowboy artist's greatness: a complete and thorough knowledge of a cowboy's life and application of those historical art principles which are the skillful rendering of an object in its exact proportions with color relative to the object's surroundings. This is the accomplishment of Cecil Smith. During the 1930's, Francis Biddle, under the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, selected several American artists to represent America in the Paris Exposition. Cecil's work was selected to represent the West. Throughout his long, successful career, Cecil has been featured in many national and international publications as well as in many galleries and museums.

Irvin "Shorty" Shope (1900-1978)

Irvin "Shorty" Shope was born in Boulder, Montana in 1900 and died in Helena, Montana in 1978. He was a traditional western painter, illustrator, and muralist. Shope was a member of the Cowboy Artists of America from 1965. "Shorty" was raised on his family's Circle Arrow Ranch, suffering polio at the age of nine. He moved to Missoula at the age of thirteen, after his father died. While being educated in the high school, he came under the influence of the painter, Edgar S. Paxson. At the age of nineteen, he went to work as a Montana cowboy, riding the range intermittently until he was thirty. In 1924, he had taken a correspondence course in art, but Charles Russell recommended that he stay out West rather than study in New York City. In 1925, he exhibited locally and received some commercial assignments. In 1928, Will James got him an illustrating commission. He sold his first major oil for \$350.00 in 1930. After returning to college in 1931, he earned his degree in 1933, majoring in art and history. He moved to Helena in 1935, as a commercial artist for the state. That same year he spent three months in New York City as the pupil of Harvey Dunn at the Grand Central School of Art. In 1942, Shope began easel painting on a half time basis, and in 1946 full time, using Paxson's easel he had obtained while a student. His Blackfoot Indian paintings led to his given name, Moquea Stumik or Man-About-Size-of-Wolf-with-Heart-Big-as-Buffalo-Bull. While his work has interpreted history, as Shope said, "The West is still the West, in spots, and I like it."

Wolfgang Pogzeba (1936-1982)

Wolfgang Pogzeba was an abstract realist painter, sculptor, printmaker, and photographer of the West. He was born in Munich, Germany in 1936 and tragically died in an airplane crash with his family in 1982. The son of an art restorer, Pogzeba attended cloister schools in Bavaria and sang in the Boy's Choir before the family settled in Denver in 1950. He spent two and a half years in engineering at the Colorado School of Mines, then studied architecture and art at the University of Colorado. In 1958, he exhibited in Paris, while a student, and when he graduated in 1960 he was given a one-man show at the Montana Historical Society in Helena, Montana. While in the U. S. Air Force stationed in Alabama, he had a one-person exhibition in Montgomery and also in New York. After two years of graduate study and a short try at teaching, he began painting, sculpting, and photographing full time. Over the years, he experimented with different forms, saying "I do one thing, refine it, then go on to something totally new. When you can get an idea, you can't afford to look back. The way to put it is versatility."

Contemporary "New West" Artists of the Horse in Flathead Valley Collections

Kelly Apgar

As Education Coordinator at the Hockaday Museum of Art, my work is deeply influenced by the spontaneous drawings and intuitive color made by hundreds of young students whom I have the pleasure of working with. Raised in the Flathead Valley, I am the great-grand daughter of the Apgar family that established the village, at the south end of Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park. My education includes a Bachelors of Fine

Arts degree from Montana State University, Bozeman, as well as an Elementary and Special Education degree from the University of Great Falls, Montana.

Sheryl Bodily

A western wildlife and landscape artist, Bodily received his training from an uncle and furthered his artistic education at Brigham Young University. Today, Bodily lives in Columbia Falls, Montana. Favorite subjects, rendered in oil and pencil, include Indian scenes with children, cabins, wagons and horses. He is the recipient of the 1997 Goody Indian Culture Award at the Western Art Associations Art Show and Auction in Ellensburg, Washington. He exhibits his work locally in Two Medicine Gallery, Whitefish, Glacier Gallery in Kalispell, and in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Sedona, Arizona and Idaho. He is an active participant in the CM Russell Auction of original Western Art.

Nancy Dunlop Cawdrey

Nancy is the daughter of a retired career officer, fortunate enough to be exposed to exotic cultures throughout her childhood. In whatever country her father was stationed, Nancy immersed herself in the culture, and her affection for the arts later led her to study two years in Paris and another five years in Britain.

Nancy loves color, texture and pattern. She began her painting career 35 years ago and worked predominately in watercolor. Through her pursuit for texture and passion for color, Nancy discovered the spontaneity and brilliance she could create through painting on silk, a Chinese technique that has been practiced for thousands of years. And, although silk painting is now her medium of choice, she continues to explore a variety of subjects in watercolor, pastel, oil and experimental media. Often, we see a mixture of media in her silk compositions. Through this overlaying of various media she creates buoyant color and texture with her combination of transparent pigment and the shimmer of silk.

A colorist with a strong sense of design, Nancy's work always evokes a response, whether she is creating one of her signature western figure pieces, a breathtaking landscape, a quiet corner of Venice, or a vibrant floral. Nancy moved to Montana 22 years ago and settled near Bigfork on Fox Creek Slough near Flathead Lake where Montana's expansiveness serves as the primary inspiration for her work. She also enjoys traveling to the Southwest and abroad to paint on-site plein air studies.

Represented in galleries in Santa Fe, Tucson, Bozeman, and Bigfork, her work is included in invitational art shows across the West. She is a 2003 Featured Artist for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and was recently voted "Artists' Choice" by her peers at the Treasure State Invitational Art Show. Nancy participates in the annual C.M. Russell show and Auction in Great Falls, Montana each March, and is a Signature Member of the Montana Watercolor Society. Her work is exhibited in many private and corporate collections across the country and in Europe.

Jay Contway

Jay Contway is a man totally involved with his art. It is simply - his life. Jay is a native Montana artist who raises working Quarter Horses. He spent time on the rodeo circuit and his knowledge and respect for the working cowboy shows clearly in his art. Appreciation for the history, his own native ancestry and the people and animals of the west he loves is illustrated in his work.

The horses and the equipment used by Cowboys and Native Americans have changed greatly over the years. Jay considers attention to historical detail very important. He knows first hand the trappings, saddles, bridles, animals and action that you see in his work. Jay was born in Malta, in eastern Montana and was raised in the ranching area. His ancestry includes Native American, French and Irish. He attended Northern Montana College in Havre, and the College of Great Falls.

William (Bill) Drum

Bill Drum was born and raised in Miles City, a ranching community in eastern Montana. He attended Cornell University, the University of Montana, and the American Graduate School for International Management. He has lived and worked in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Mexico City, New York and California. Bill and his wife, Carol now live in Billings, Montana, where he has a studio.

"Found steel", with amazing patinas and textures, not possible to obtain with new materials, comes from Montana salvage yards where old cars, farm and ranch machinery, mining equipment, oil drums, and other metal detritus no longer useful in today's industrial world.

In these salvage yards old car bodies are picked up by a crane with huge claws, which quickly crunch them to about one third their original size as they are lifted into another powerful machine, which further crushes them into a large cube. Voila' - more "found steel" for his sculptures

With an oxy-acetylene torch, crowbars, and other cutting tools he separates the crushed and bent pieces of found steel so he can then bend them into the shapes he wants and weld them together to make his sculptures.

Anna Dwyer

Anna Dwyer calls Bigfork, Montana her home. She has always been filled with creativity and inspiration using the figure of the horse in her artwork. She currently shows her work at the Corbett Gallery, in Bigfork, is a participant at the CM Russell Auction, Western Rendezvous of Art, Helena, and has been a C.M. Russell Quick Draw Artist. She often participates in the Bigfork Cultural Art Centers exhibitions.

J.C. Dye

J.C. Dye was born in Montana and raised on a small cattle ranch in the central part of the state. Inspired early on to pursue an artistic career, today he is one of the country's better-known western sculptors. His small-scale bronzes of wildlife, horses, Western figures and Native Americans as well as monumental installations have been greatly inspired by his life as a rancher, working cowboy and avid outdoorsman.

J.C. has been honored with various awards including the "People's Choice Award" and "First Place Sculpture Award" from the Central Montana Art Show as well as the "Founder's Award" bestowed by the American Academy of Equine Arts.

J.C. recently completed a monumental sculpture for the city of Casper, Wyoming. This sculpture will be the largest in the state of Wyoming. Feature articles on J.C. Dye appear in "Art of the West", "Western Horseman" and "Equine Images".

Charles Fritz

Born in 1955, Charles Fritz grew up in Mason City, Iowa, and studied history and education at Iowa State University in Ames. He soon left teaching to pursue his art career. His move to Montana in 1980 strengthened his interest in the history of the Great Plains and the West, which is apparent in the evolution of his work. Today he paints historical subjects in vast, luminous landscapes while residing in Billings with his wife and their two sons. Charles Fritz's work has been included in numerous museum exhibitions across the country, including the Albuquerque Museum, New Mexico; Artists of America Exhibit, Denver, Colorado; Booth Museum of Western Art, Cartersville, Georgia; Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Great American Masters Exhibit, Cincinnati, Ohio; Prix de West Exhibit, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, Wyoming; Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon; Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, Montana; and the Salmagundi Club, New York, New York. Fritz is listed in *Who's Who in the American West* and *Who's Who in America*. His work has been featured in many magazines and periodicals and is included in Donald Hagerty's books *Leading the West: 100 Contemporary Artists* and *Canyon de Chelly: 100 Years of Painting and Photography*.

Betsey Hurd

Betsey Hurd views the figure of the Horse from a modern perspective. Her works in clay and paint invoke an interesting perspective on the classical perception of the horse in art. Today she has begun to cast her clay horses in bronze, a medium that lends itself well to

her chosen style. Hurd shows her work at Frame of Reference, in Bigfork, Jest Galery in Whitefish, Dana Gallery in Missoula, Latigo and Lace in Augusta and several others. She has exhibited her works in many museum shows at the Holter Museum in Helena, the Hockaday Museum of Art in Kalispell and the Missoula Art Museum. Her works have also been exhibited at the Archie Bray Foundation. Hurd holds a B.F.A. from the Univeristy of Montana in Missoula and currently resides in Kalispell, Montana.

Elizabeth Michelsen-Jonas

Encaustic is one of the most ancient mediums of artful expression. Used in ancient Egypt for portraits included on the sarcophagi of nobles, and for ornament on Cleopatra's barge; it represents the epitome of preservation and vitality. She chose to work in the encaustic medium for its depth, luminescence, and exotic versatility. The color, movement and intensity is reminiscent of a heightened state of sensation as in a dream or when one experiences something so profound and unutterably exquisite that it is simply "burned in the memory."

Movement and stillness explain the underlying theme in my work. The existence and participation of both states is the essence of living, and loving life. To be fully engaged in the ripening thunder of movement; and to be conscious and capable of being captivated by stillness-this is the quality that compels me to reproduce its essence.

My background as a sculptor trained me to seek subtle contour, and the core of what gives a subject 'life'. My experiences with plastering walls drew out my attraction to and appreciation of the natural beauty of the organic subtleties intrinsic in hand done finishes throughout world cultures and time immemorial. The manifestation of the ambience of nature was then an inevitable evolution. From walls as my canvas for the last six years, I am now journeying down the path into the wonders of beeswax, pondering the wonders of stillness and movement...

Terry Mimnaugh

Mimnuagh is a fourth generation Montanan, who graduated with honors from Montana State University in Bozeman. She is known for her oils, watercolors and pastels as well as her heroic bronzes. She has won numerous awards including the Richard Schmid merit award, Northwest Rendezvous award, Montana Institute of the Arts award, and the Montana Watercolor Society's top award. Mimnaugh won the Juror's Choice Award at the 2005 CM Russell Auction and the 2005 Jane Griswold Smith-Artists For Open Space People's Choice Award. She has been featured in Southwest Art and Art West. She has also won Best of Show at past C.M. Russell Auctions. Mimnaugh was selected for the Stacey Award from the Cowboy Hall of Fame and is a member of the Society of American Impressionists. Show was one of four Montana artists chosen for an exchange program to study at the Russian Academy of Arts.

Kristin Murphy

Kristen made the Flathead Valley her home almost nine years ago when a friend told her it was Paradise. She was raised in New York then moved to Vermont where she received her degree in Fine Art. She loves the outdoors and spends much of her free time skiing, hiking, biking, and paddling the beautiful mountains and lakes of the area. As an artist, she finds much of her inspiration in the color and character of the incredible natural world. She works with a bold and colorful palette. Brilliantly colored animals and flowers are predominant in most of her paintings and drawings.

Karen Young

I grew up on a ranch in Texas where I fell in love with animals and the outdoors. As a young girl I did pencil sketches of our horses around the ranch and I've never lost the love of making art of the horse. Today, I specialize in commissioned works of equine paintings that range from portraits to competitive action profiles.

One of my portraits, *Wallenda "Lindy"* was chosen as the People's Choice in the 2001 Bigfork Art and Cultural Center's Annual Fall Art Show. Another one of my paintings, *"War Paint,"* was "Best of Show" winner at the Bigfork Art and Cultural Center's 1998 Fall Show. Most recently, the portrait of Durkkhal, a beautiful Akhal-Teke stallion from the River Ranch in Hamilton was featured on the front cover of *The Montana Horse Trader*, (the first time artwork has been featured on the front cover of that publication). Presently, my work can be seen locally at Evergreen Art Center, Kindred Spirits Gift Gallery at the Glacier Park International Airport, and Buffalo Trails Gallery in Bigfork.