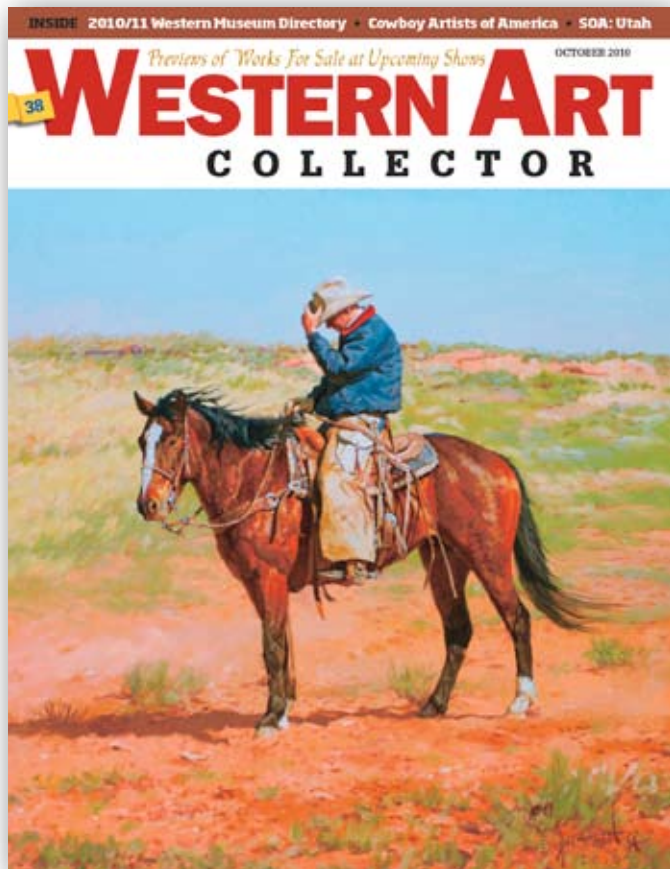


As seen in the  
October 2010 issue of

**WESTERN ART**  
COLLECTOR



# Forging Ahead

A new format and two new members mark the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Cowboy Artists of America Sale & Exhibition held in Phoenix.

**A**s always, the biggest star of the premier *Cowboy Artists of America Sale & Exhibition* is the new, never-before-seen artwork presented by some of the best contemporary Western artists working in the genre. For 45 years CAA members have dedicated countless hours to planning and preparing for this annual autumn event.

"To see a complete art show of brand-new works is important. It's exciting to see the best artists doing the best work," says CAA president Fred Fellows.

Held at Phoenix Art Museum since 1973, this premier event spotlights art that evokes the sights, sounds, lifestyle and untamable experience of the American West. This year the 23 active members of the CAA will unveil more than 130 new works in bronze and stone sculpture, oil and water soluble paintings, and drawings.

"The exhibition tends to be one highlight after another. The artists look forward to this event like no other, and they do try to outdo one another. That is just human nature," says Jerry N. Smith, Curator of American Art and Western American Art at Phoenix Art Museum. "So you might think you know who will create the work that will have people dropping their intent-to-buy slips in the box, but with this group you just know that they are all capable of producing the highlight of the show."

To celebrate the show's significant anniversary, some exciting changes are in store over the sale weekend, October 16 and 17. Traditionally held on Friday, the new schedule will include a preview Friday evening for ticket holders with the set-price sale now taking place on Saturday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. followed by the banquet and awards party. All events will be held at Phoenix Art Museum. Once again *Western Art Collector* is proud to be a major sponsor of the CAA show.

"It will certainly make for an amazing evening of events for the collectors and the artists," says Smith. "It is a big change that



**Tom Browning**, *In The Circle*, oil on canvas, 24 x 18"



**Bill Owen**, *Windswept Plains of the Co Bar*, oil on canvas, 24 x 24"

was ultimately driven by the collectors themselves."

Patron favorites like the artist presentation on Saturday morning, this year given by CA member Harley Brown, one of the top portrait artists in the U.S., and the annual Autograph Party from 10 a.m. until noon with all artists present will remain.

"I'm most excited about our new format. Before it was stretched out over three days and it wore people out," says Fellows. "For the first time in 45 years someone can take the

whole show in on one day. And, for the first time, works not sold Saturday night will be available online."

New CAA members include painter Tom Browning and sculptor Paul Moore who both will be participating for the first time.

"They're both medal winners and fabulous artists and we're really looking forward to it," adds Fellows.

In 2009 Tom Browning won the prestigious *Prix de West Purchase Award*, the show's top honor. Paul Moore is a Fellow with the

National Sculpture Society, also a top honor.

Each artist is allowed to submit up to seven pieces for the CAA show, and Fellows plans to take advantage of the opportunity with five oil paintings, one watercolor and a drawing. He pays tribute to the start of quarter horse racing in Arizona in his new piece, *The Match Race*. Always working with real models, Fellows asked his friends to pose for this scene and used his own horses, of which he has 11.

"Everything in the picture is in 1920s period including the saddles and the 1929



**Fred Fellows**, *The Match Race*, oil on linen canvas, 30 x 46"



**TD Kelsey**, *Just One More Hill*, bronze, 12 x 30 x 11"



**Jim Norton,** *Comanche War Party*, oil on linen, 24 x 36"



**Bruce Greene,** *The Sound of Guitars and the Laughter of Ladies*, oil on linen, 30 x 30"



**Harley Brown,** *Young Princess*, pencil on paper, 12 x 9"



**John Coleman**, *Mystic Smoke and Sacred Arrows*, clay for bronze, 39 x 17 x 16"



**John Moyers**, *Custer Had It Coming*, acrylic on canvas, 60 x 30"

Ford Model A in the background. That was about the time they started to build race tracks," says Fellows.

Bill Owen also plans on bringing seven pieces to the show. His oil painting *Windswept Plains of the Co Bar* illustrates how cowboys have to live with the elements, working in all kinds of weather. Portraying a cowboy braced against the wind in this manner marks a first for Owen.

"That alone was inspiring to me, but more inspiring is the fact that very seldom will you ever hear them complain about it," says Owen. "This cowboy, Bill Howell, lived his whole life outdoors and I once heard him say, 'Very seldom is it not too hot or too cold, too windy,

too still, too wet or too dry.'"

John Moyers drew his inspiration for his latest piece *Custer Had It Coming* from old ledger drawings of Custer's Last Stand.

"Then I incorporated a modern perspective in the form of the bumper sticker. This breaks the barrier that usually keeps the historical subject distant and static," says Moyers. "I wanted to approach my subject from a fresh, dynamic point of view."

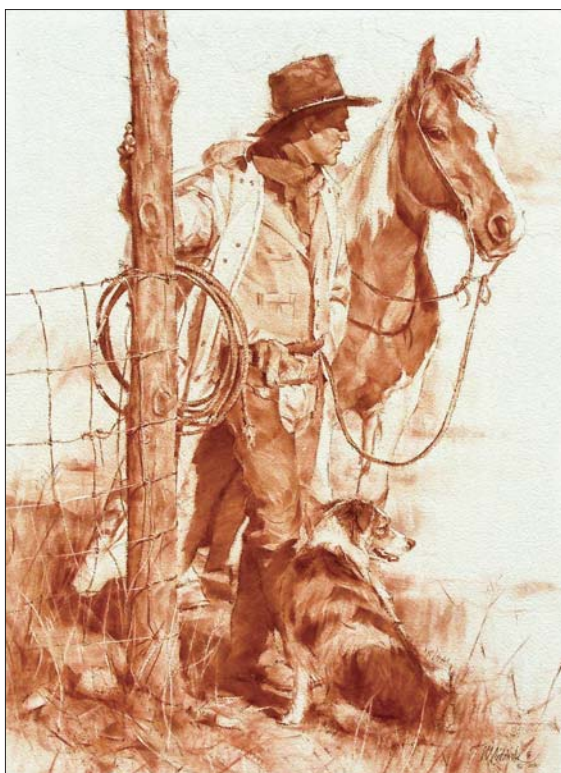
Newcomer Tom Browning depicts a cowboy overseeing the area and cattle he was assigned by the cowboss in the piece titled *In The Circle*. Hot sun and dust are just part of the effects the artists enjoys capturing in any moment of a cowboy's day.

"I simply want the viewer to feel the environment these hardworking men endure, even though the scene is a simple and relaxed-looking moment," says Browning. "I'm excited about the seven new paintings I'll have for this year's exhibit, which is my first. I feel collectively they will make a strong statement that will let everyone know how proud and serious I am to be an active member of the Cowboy Artists of America."

The 45<sup>th</sup> annual Cowboy Artists of America Sale & Exhibition opens to the public on Sunday, October 17, and hangs through November 21. Any works of art not sold opening night may be purchased during the exhibit's duration. 🌵



**Gary Niblett**, *Great Clouds of Dust*, oil on canvas, 26 x 36"



**Ron Riddick**, *Cowboy Contemplation*, conte drawing on paper, 30 x 22"

ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

### 45<sup>th</sup> annual Cowboy Artists of America Sale & Exhibition



**Where:** Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004

**When:** Preview, Oct. 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sale: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Exhibition on view to the public Oct. 17-Nov. 21.

**Tickets:** \$375 per person for Friday's Sale Preview & Reception, Saturday's Sale and Awards Party; \$225 for sale only.

**Information:** (602) 819-0390, [www.caashow.org](http://www.caashow.org).