

IN THE STUDIO with John Coleman

You could say CA member John Coleman is seeing things in a new light, literally. For 15 years, Coleman's studio was housed in an industrial space in downtown Prescott. A steady stream of delivery people and foundry customers created a constant distraction for the artist.

Five years ago, he and his wife Sue purchased a ranch house a few miles from downtown, and last year they decided to convert it into their dream studio. At 5,000 square feet, the house had more than enough room to fill their needs. And nestled among the pines, it had more than enough rustic beauty to serve as inspiration.

"The emphasis is on the aesthetics," said Coleman. "It's all about the views."

The Colemans gutted the house, adding two new studios. To accommodate Coleman's larger sculptures, one studio has a 12-foot ceiling and the other's measures 20 feet. Walls of windows invite in the natural light and the forest vistas.

"The light changes dramatically from one studio to the other," explained Coleman. "This gives me another point of reference for my work."

The larger studio is where most of the sculpting takes place. The second one houses many of Coleman's artifacts and is the ideal place to work on smaller pieces, such as charcoal drawings. Coleman typically works on two or three pieces at a time. He plans to evolve into oil painting, and the separate studios afford him the space to do just that.

In addition to the two studios, the building contains a library and a gallery. The library houses Coleman's extensive book collection. The gallery, with rustic, beam ceilings, serves two purposes. First, it is a place to display Coleman's work. It is also a gathering place where he can visit with friends and other guests.

"In the past, we had to shovel the dirt to clear the old studio for people to come in," joked Coleman. "Now we have a comfortable place to hang out."

Coleman also has space to display his own art collection. Naturally, he is a big Western American art collector, but Coleman also collects other styles of art he admires, including works by Richard Schmid and Ned Jacob. There's also room for another pursuit – teaching. Coleman holds sculpting workshops once a year at the Scottsdale Artists' School, but now he is considering doing the same thing in his studio once in a while since space allows.

This studio is the culmination of years of hard work and dreams. "I kind of feel like I have grown up," concluded Coleman. His studio certainly has.



John Coleman works in his newly renovated studio outside of Prescott, Ariz.



Men's Arts Council

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Sweatin' Bullets, Gary Niblett, 2007. Oil on canvas, 34" x 48". Courtesy of the artist.



SUMMER 2008 caashow.org

American Idyll

Trail Riders Find Calm, Inspiration at Wagonhound

Whether it was their first trail ride or their thirty-ninth, members of the Cowboy Artists of America were awestruck by the lush country surrounding the Wagonhound Ranch in Douglas, Wyo. Spring rains had made way for flowers and left behind water in the creekbeds, and calves and colts abounded.



The CAAs take a leisurely ride through the magnificent terrain on their way to Mountain Home.

The Wagonhound Ranch is nestled in the Laramie Range of the Rocky Mountains an hour outside of Caspar, Wyo., and is part of Wagonhound Land & Livestock. This diverse company specializes in all-natural Red Angus beef, cowhorse-bred Quarter Horses, farming and elite outfitted hunts. Owner Art Nicholas and his wife Catherine, who have five children, made gracious hosts for the CAA members and their guests.

New CA member Tim Cox is no stranger to the Wagonhound, although this was his first official CAA trail ride. He has visited many times before, often incorporating scenes from the Wagonhound in his work.

"Having been there before took the apprehension out of it," said Cox. "It kind of felt like home."

In fact, Cox arrived two days before the start of the trail ride so he could help prepare the remuda for his fellow CA members. When the group arrived, everyone got saddled up on an appropriate horse and settled in and later enjoyed dinner together.

"Tim was a great help," said Steve Todd, CAA Business Manager. "He really knows the trails at Wagonhound."

That knowledge served him well the next day when the group rode several miles from the lodge to Mountain Home, a guest house on the property where they ate lunch.

"There was a lot of rain before the ride, and the country was green and cool," added Cox. "It was perfect for the ride."

The rain returned, however, and the next day, instead of moving Longhorn cattle, the CAA members remained in the lodge all day. The lodge houses part of the Nicholas family's extensive Western art collection, as well as artifacts and collectible saddles and bits. Included in the collection is *Good Horses and Wide Open Spaces*, a painting by Cox of the moving of the ranch horses

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Newest CAA member Tim Cox (left) and Kevin Meyer flank Cox's award-winning oil, *Good Horses and Wide Open Spaces*. Kevin Meyer is the cowboy featured in the painting, which is part of the Wagonhound collection.

American Idyll

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at Wagonhound. This painting is the 2007 winner of the Express Ranches Great American Cowboy Award, and Nicholas purchased it for the ranch. In fact, the ranch boasts art by more than half of the CAA members. During their stay there, they were photographed with their works, lending a personal touch to their visit.

In addition to admiring the art, CAA members were treated to an impromptu concert that stormy day. CAs Herb Mignery and Bill Nebeker and honorary members Red Steagall and Don Hedgpeth entertained the group with their guitars for several hours without repeating a single song. Mignery even amused the group with his Elvis Presley impersonation.

"Everyone was laughing and having a good time," said Cox. "I just ate it all up."

For Cox, the best part of his inaugural CAA trail ride was simply getting to know his new CAA family better. "When you're riding, you can visit," he explained. "But by spending that day together in the lodge, I got to hear a lot of funny stories with no interruptions, and I really enjoyed it."

In fact, everything about the CAA trail ride exceeded his expectations, which Cox had been cultivating since high school. "I achieved my dream, and I feel honored to have been there where friendships are made."



CAA members Herb Mignery (left) and Bill Nebeker entertain the group on a rainy afternoon.

Back Row (from left): Bill Owen, T.D. Kelsey, John Moyers, Bruce Greene, Oreland Joe, Mehl Lawson, Loren Entz, John Coleman, Herb Mignery and emeritus member Grant Speed; **Front Row** (from left): Clark Kelley Price, Martin Grelle, Gary Carter, David Halbach, Dave Powell, Gary Niblett, Jim Norton, Fred Fellows, Ron Riddick, Harley Brown, Bill Nebeker and Tim Cox



CAA News



Bill Owen's *Winter Work* was honored at the C. M. Russell Art Auction in March.

Owen Wins Big in His First Russell Auction

CA member Bill Owen won the 2008 Honorary Chairman's Award at the 40th Anniversary C. M. Russell Art Auction in March in Great Falls, Mont.

This was Owen's first time participating in the Russell auction, which The Great Falls Advertising Federation, or the Ad Club, hosts each year. This auction benefits the C.M. Russell Museum, and members of the Ad Club volunteer year-round to organize it.

Mike Ingram, the 2008 Show Chairman, and two past chairmen selected Owen's oil painting, *Winter Work*, from the entire show for the 2008 Honorary Chairman's Award. Owen was presented with a plaque and cash award, which has been sponsored by Ashton and Dana Smith for more than a decade.

CAA Catalog a Winner, Too!

Usually it's the art that garners all the attention, but this time it's the Cowboy Artists of America Sale Catalog itself that is getting noticed.

The 2007 CAA catalog was presented with the Award of Excellence and the Special Judge's Award at the Printing and Imaging Association Mountain States Awards Banquet

in Denver in April. It won in the three- and four-color catalog category for printing. Vision Graphics is the company that printed last year's CAA catalog and submitted it for consideration for the awards.

"The CAA catalog is a real showpiece book due to the excellent, tasteful design and the artwork it contains," said Scott Perrizo, sales consultant at Vision Graphics. "We were pleased to be able to do the printing and binding for such a nice piece."

Over the years, the CAA catalog has won numerous other awards.

If you would like to purchase one of the remaining copies of the limited-edition 2007 CAA catalog, send an email to info@cowboyartistsofamerica.com or call 602-677-3123.



Niblett Honored with Prestigious American Cowboy Culture Award

CA member Gary Niblett was presented with the American Cowboy Culture Award in Western Art last fall.

The American Cowboy Culture Award Program recognizes individuals and institutions that make considerable contributions to the culture of the American West. The Western Art award is one of twelve given by this renowned awards program. Other categories include Ranching, Working Cowboy, Western Museum, Western Music and Western Writing and Publishing.

The physical award was designed, in part, by CA emeritus member Tom Ryan. His painting of a cowpuncher was used as the model for the award, which Phil Bob Borman sculpted. The small sculpture is mounted on wood, and artist Brian Asher created a pencil drawing of a remuda that serves as the background of the award.

Past recipients of the Western Art award include CA members Tom Ryan, Joe Beeler and Grant Speed. CA honorary member Red Steagall has won the Western Music and the Lifetime Achievement awards that are part of the American Cowboy Culture Award Program.



Gary Niblett is the latest CA member to receive the prestigious American Cowboy Culture Award in Western Art.

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SAVE the DATE

43rd Annual Cowboy Artists of America Sale & Exhibition at Phoenix Art Museum

Sale Weekend Oct. 17 – 18, 2008

Exhibition Oct. 18 – Nov. 16, 2008

Keeping Current

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