

DON WELLER



As a boy Don Weller drew horses and cowboys when he wasn't exploring with his horse along the Palouse River or over the rolling hills that surrounded his childhood home near Pullman, Washington. He roped calves in high school and college rodeos and sold some cartoons to Western Horseman magazine. His passions were horses and art.

Graduating from Washington State University with a degree in Fine Art, he sold his horses and moved to Los Angeles where he spent decades doing graphic design and illustration. His work appeared on record covers, posters, in advertisements, and on hundreds of magazine pages. He did covers for Time Magazine, TV Guide, and illustrated stories in Sports Illustrated, Boys Life, Pro, Readers Digest and many others. He did posters for the Hollywood Bowl, The National Football League, The Rose

Bowl, and the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. He illustrated three children's books and published a coffee table book about cutting horses, *Pride in the Dust*. He created five stamps for the United States Post Office.

Besides illustration and graphic design, he taught school part time, three years at UCLA, where he met his wife Cha Cha, and eleven years at the Art Center School in Pasadena.

Finally Don realized he had seen all the cement and palm trees he could stand. They moved to Utah, near the skiing at Park City. A book project for the NCHA introduced him to a neighbor who trained cutting horses. The west of his childhood came flooding back. It was still there, just as he'd left it. The cutting horse book project took him to Texas and Arizona, California, and Montana. He was in arenas and on ranches.

He began to wonder what it would be like to ride those cutting horses. He found out, and his adventures expanded to cutting contests, rodeos and ranch life.

Now Cha Cha and Don live in rural Oakley, Utah, with Buster the border collie, two cats, and five horses who are bred to cut. Don creates western paintings and rides the cutting horses. In the summers the menagerie grows to include cattle and sometimes buffalo. In winter they ski.



HOWELL GALLERY

SPECIAL AWARDS

- 2017 Cheyenne Frontier Days: "Rodeo Icon" will be reproduced as the official poster for CFD in 2018
- 2017 American Plains Artists Juried Art Show: 2nd Place Overall for "Comes in Swingin"
- 2017 American Plains Artists Juried Art Show: Publisher's Award from Art of the West for "Long Shot"
- 2017 Bosque Art Classic: Silver Medal Water Media Award for "Ropin' with Roanie"
- 2017 Traces of the West (Eccles Community Center, Ogden, Utah): Best of Show for "Been Workin"
- 2017 "Hold Your Horses": Featured Artist Phippen Museum
- 2017 American Plains Artists Signature Show and Sale: Golden Spur Award
- 2016 "Hold your Horses" : Featured Artist (for 2017), Phippen Museum
- 2016 One Man Show: Kimball Art Center, Park City, Utah
- 2016 People's Choice Award: Phippen Museum
- 2016 Traces of the West: The Best of Painting
- 2016 Windows to the West: People's Choice Award and Artists' Choice Award
- 2016 Cattlemen's Art Show: Featured Artist
- 2015 The Art of Cutting: Spirit Award
- 2015 Traveling the West (*Largest western art show ever*): Best Watercolor
- 2015 Traces of the West: The Best of Painting
- 2014 Traces of the West: Two Sponsored Awards
- 2011 Bosque Conservatory: First Place Watercolor, Patron's Award
- 2011 American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame and Museum: Steel Dust Award
- 2011 American Plains Artists: Golden Spur Award (APA Member's Choice), Arrowhead Award (Director's Choice), Second Place (Overall) Award
- 2011 Western Artists of America: Artists' Choice Award, Editor's Choice Award, Third place watercolor
- 2011 Western Artists Association, National Western Art Show: Best of Show Water Media
- 2010 American Plains Artists: Exhibition Award
- 2010 Art of the Horse: Best of Show
- 2010 Bosque Conservatory: Second Place watercolor
- 2009 Bosque Conservatory: Jones Award Winner, Gold Medal watercolor
- 2009 Fur Feathers & Fins Art Show: Sponsor's Award
- 2009 Paint America: Second 100
- 2009 Paint America Top 50 Minis (Juror's Award Winner)
- 2009 Summit County Historical Art: First Place watercolor, Judge's Award
- 2009 Western Spirit Show: Best Watercolor
- 2008 Bosque Conservatory: Gold Award, New Comer Award, Patron's Award
- 2008 Western Spirit Show: Best Watercolor
- 2007 Bountiful Davis Art Center: Best of Show
- 2007 Paint the Parks: Top 100



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2007 Paint the Parks: Top 100 Mini
2007 Western Spirit Show: Best Watercolor

EXHIBITIONS

Bosque Conservatory, Clifton
Bountiful Davis Art Center, Bountiful, Utah
Cattlemen's Western Art Show, Paso Robles
Cheyenne Frontier Days - Old West Museum, Cheyenne
C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls
Empire 100 Western Art Show and Sale, Tucson
Kimball Art Center, Park City
Mountain Oysters Show, Tucson
Pearce Museum, Corsicana, Texas
Peppertree Art Show, Santa Ynez
Settlers West, Tucson

JOURNALS

Western Horseman November 2014 *Closing the Circle*
Southwest Art August 2014 *High in the Saddle*
Art of the West March/April 2014 *Addicted to Painting*
Western Art Collector June 2013 *Watercolor Cowboys*
Western Art Collector May 2013 *World of Watercolor*
Watercolor Artist April 2013 *American Pictures: Don Weller*
Southwest Art April 2012 *Mixed Media: Don Weller*
Ranch & Riata Premier Issue 2011 *Painting Cowboys, Don Weller*
Western Art Collector December 2010 *Art of the Cowboy*
Art of the West Nov/Dec 2010 *Color Magicians: Don Weller and six others*
Art of the West May/June 2009 *Watercolor: Don Weller and four others*
Sedona Monthly March 2009 *Open Portfolio: Don Weller*
Horses in Art Summer 2008 *Unmistakable Watercolors of Don Weller*
Park City Magazine Summer 2008 *The Prettiest Place*
Wildlife Art May/June 2007 *Horses of a Different Color*
Performance Horse April 2007 *The Road Home*
Southwest Art March 2007 *On the Range. 6 Western Artists Celebrate An American Icon, The Working Cowboy*
Western Horseman Aug 2005 *Western Art Gallery*
AD News July/August, 2005 *Creative Voice*
P.C. Arts Winter/Spring 2004 *A Real Life Sketch: Don Weller from Stamps to Stirrups*