

Summer 2008

12th Release

*Beauty. Inspiration.
Imagination.*

Welcome to The Trail of Painted Ponies, where the inspirational power of the horse is imaginatively expressed by some of the finest artists in the country. What began as a fantastic public art exhibition in Santa Fe, New Mexico has expanded to new ranges with the introduction of a select line of high-quality figurines that honor the spirit of original Painted Ponies. Each Painted Pony is crafted with exquisite attention to detail, and each is a miniature work-of-art in its own right, which is why Painted Ponies figurines have become one of the most beloved collectibles in America.



Wounded Knee

This lone Lakota pony wanders near the frozen banks of Wounded Knee Creek. Cold and tired he roams as darkness falls on the plains, stopping occasionally to paw the icy ground. The pony wonders why the Lakota do not wake from their snowy slumber? Why do they lay motionless in the snows of South Dakota? Where is the laughter of the children and the promise of the Ghost Dance? Their chief had surrendered, their lands had been taken, there was nothing left. But that was not enough. This once proud nation was vanquished on a cold, gray morning in December, 1880. And so the Lakota pony wanders the frozen prairies in search of his beloved people that will dance no more. Artist Vickie Knepper has created a memorial of haunting beauty that captures the unimaginable sorrow of great loss.

Artist: **Vickie Knepper**
#12276

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Bunkhouse Bronco

The original bunkhouse was a rough, simple building, often fashioned from the wood boards torn off old barns that provided sleeping quarters for ranch hands. Horse tack, wagon wheels and cow skulls were frequently tacked to weathered planks on the outside, while western hats and ropes hung on the inside walls. Adding cozy ambience, the whole place would smell of coffee brewing in an enamel pot on a wood burning stove. Working these classic, cowboy touches into a fabulous Painted Pony design, this gifted Oregon artist has created an old-timey yet timeless tribute to our Western heritage.

Artist: **Lynn Bean**
#12275

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For Spacious Skies

"Some of the most famous memorials, monuments and landmarks in our country inspired my Pony," says the artist, a full-time graphic designer at the University of Illinois. While acknowledging that Mount Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty, the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Iwo Jima Memorial can only be appreciated when experienced in person, she wanted her Pony to be a kind of road trip across America... on horseback. The original "For Spacious Skies" was the People's Choice Award Winner of the national "America the Beautiful" competition.
Artist: [Janet Snyder](#)
#12274

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Kachina Pony

Kachinas are stylized religious icons, meticulously carved from cottonwood roots and painted to represent figures from Hopi mythology. They often wear masks of animals, plants, stars, warriors and clowns. They are the focus of ceremonies and rituals in which they relay the wishes of the Hopi people to the gods – for more rain, a plentiful harvest, good health. In an effort to create a Painted Pony with mystical powers of its own, this colorist from Idaho has adorned her Pony with the designs and symbols of traditional kachina masks, including, on the left side, the "Sun Kachina" mask, and on the right, the "Messenger of the Gods" mask.
Artist: [Maria Ryan](#)
#12279

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Rolling Thunder

"Rolling Thunder" harkens back to a time of big skies and fierce storms, of thundering herds of bison large enough to shake the earth beyond the horizon, and of Plains Indians and their spirited, sure-footed, courageous horses trained to carry bow-bearing braves through the stampeding confusion of a bison hunt. Only an artist who has called Oklahoma home her entire life, who has seen with her own eyes the way darkening skies can be splintered with lightning bolts that seem to outline a rumbling "sky herd" of buffalo, could have created this masterful homage to the "buffalo ponies."

Artist: **Aloma Wolfington**
#12277

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Runs the Bitterroot

The Native Americans' admiration for the horse took many forms. A favored horse dressed for ceremony or war would often be adorned with striking regalia, as well as painted. The beauty and mystery of the Indian horse mask as the emblem of a warrior Pony is captured with great power by an Oklahoma historian/artist in this masterful tribute to Chief Joseph. The legendary leader of the Nez Perce, who is credited with the successful breeding of the Appaloosa, is remembered for his principled resistance to the forced removal of the Nez Perce from their Idaho homelands. Chief Joseph's surrender speech, in which he said "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever," immortalized him in American history and popular culture.

Artist: **Kevin Kilhoffer**
#12280

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Stagecoach Pony

Relive the days of overland stagecoach travel in the Old West with a Painted Pony that captures a dramatic and symbolic moment in frontier history! Throughout most of the 1800s, stagecoaches were a primary means of transportation across the American West. They hauled passengers, mail and freight over vast, treeless plains, jagged mountain passes, scorching deserts, and rivers cursed with quicksand. To capture the iconic character of the stagecoach, this artist – formerly with National Geographic Magazine's Art Division - imagined a horse-drawn stagecoach running from danger – attacking Indians or outlaw robbers – down a dusty trail, silhouetted against a sunset sky.

Artist: Johanna Enriquez
#12273

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Sundancer

The Sun Dance was the most spectacular and important religious ceremony of the Plains Indians of the 19th century. It was designed to bring renewal – the spiritual rebirth of its participants, harmony between all living beings, and the return of the all-important buffalo. Incorporating many of the sacred materials and symbolic elements of the Sun Dance ceremony into her design – a sage noseband, pictograph horses traveling from each of the four sacred directions, a white buffalo skull, a war bonnet sun graphic – this Montana graphic artist has created a Pony that represents the essence of the Sun Dance: renewal and balance, and the reaffirmation of relationships between people and nature.

Artist: Joyce Kennedy
#12278