

The High Desert

PALETTE

May. 2022, Vol. 2, No.9

EXCLUSIVE

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ROGERSON**
Spurred into music, Pg. 6

WILLCOX WEST FEST

Covering the eighth annual West Fest Celebration, Pg. 20

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WELCOME TO *The High Desert Palette*

Welcome to *The High Desert Palette*! In our first year's nine issues, we brought work from local artists to these pages to share – from painters to blacksmiths; writers to culinary artists; photographers to musicians – and we've barely made a dent in the list of talented creatives in the area.

Art is meant to be shared: every page will share something intriguing and creative, and every issue is something that you can share with others after you've read it.

You can share with us your knowledge about more artists and creatives, so that our future issues will bring their work to the fore and for writers, share your writing in these pages.

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CORRECTION

The April High Desert Palette misspoke when saying Walter Wein's wife assisted in starting the gallery in Dos Cabezas, it was his sister, Carol, along with himself and others. We regret the error.

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Carol Adcock

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JARED ROGERSON

Spurred into Music By Sarah Cameron

With songs like 'Honky Tonk Halos', 'Roll My Way Again', and 'Texas in 1880', Jared Rogerson loves writing and performing music. Although he has been doing music for many years, it wasn't his first choice.

Jared's first love was competing in rodeos, which he did for 17 years. In high school, he got a scholarship to ride bareback broncs and from there he worked his way up through college to professional rodeo.

// That was kind of the point where I was like, 'You know, maybe this is a good opportunity to finally switch dreams and start focusing on a music career.'"

He was "Spurred in a music career" in 2007 when he tore his bicep tendon during a competition and looked to focus on another long standing interest. "That was kind of the point where I was like, 'You know, maybe this is a good opportunity to finally switch dreams and start focusing on a music career.'"

The Kitchen and the 4 Track

Jared always loved writing songs.

"I love to make up songs. I think early on, I was just changing lyrics to songs everyone knew, like all kids do. I always felt like I had something to say, in that way."

Although Jared played piano as a child, he didn't have much instrumental experience. It wasn't until he was in college that

he bought a guitar and started learning. Shortly after his accident, he bought a 4 track recorder and a microphone and picked up the guitar again. "All of a sudden, I was in the recording business." As he was getting started, his recording studio was his kitchen. There he wrote and recorded a lot of the songs that are now featured on his home recorded album 'Bad Hay', which was released in 2010.

"I'm really glad that's how I got started. That was my training.

That was how I learned. It was a steep learning curve, but that really prepared me for what happened next."

Cowboy Culture

After 'Bad Hay', Jared met up with a good friend, who was also a country singer/songwriter, by the name of Brenn Hill. Brenn and Jared co-produced the next album in Nashville, which was the official launch of Jared's music career.



"I call my music 'Rocky Mountain Country' music. That's how I grew up. I'm a product of the Chris LeDoux generation. I loved that way of life. That sort of cowboy culture, rodeo stuff, and western lifestyle."

That cowboy culture is evident in the music he writes, with each song being consistent with the western lifestyle theme. "I will sit down and try to not write a cowboy song and it still comes out as a cowboy song. So, I guess that's just what I do."

A lot of people have influenced Jared and his musical journey, whether it be



through the lyrics, or simply the style of the songs themselves. Jared hopes to influence other people in their own musical endeavors.

Jump In

If you really have a passion to do something, you should jump in and do it regardless of whether you think it's actually going to pay off or not."

"Any advice I'd give to someone who is interested in music would be, if you really have a passion to do something, you should jump in and do it regardless of whether you think it's actually going to pay off or not. Find a way to do it. It's extremely possible to go out there and make a living doing what you love and being in charge of your destiny."

Jared Rogerson
will be performing
at the Ranching
Heritage Festival
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on Friday, June
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Jun. 16th

Kathleen's Crafts

Make a small bee hive and a 4th of July smashed floral can!



Jun. 18th

Paint Night

Paint along with a talented instructor as she walks you through a step by step tutorial on how to paint.



Jun. 18th

Jam Session

A group for adult musicians to meet and "jam" together for entertainment and proficiency. - no electric amplified instruments and no drum kits.



Jun. 21th



CAROL ADCOCK

The Art of Detail
By Peter Spitzer

When going out to meet Carol Adcock (and her movie stunt man husband, Butterfly) you'll be met by winding dirt roads and steep rocky hills. But as long and arduous as the journey out there is, when you reach her you'll be greeted by the most beautiful view in Cochise County. Strikingly enough, this mirrors Carol's own journey to become a truly great artist. Because

“I wouldn't say I have a style, I'm just too much of a perfectionist to have one.”

as Carol puts it, "Nothing comes without hard work."

A Lifetime of Learning

So where did Carol start? When asked the question, Carol went on to reminisce of an early horse drawing, from when she was three that her mother had kept. Like many girls her age, Carol was "horse crazy". This led her to draw more and more, refine this, change that. Looking and looking again. "I just kept drawing."

Much later on in life Carol started taking sessions and classes with other more experienced artists like Ralph Schaefer and Ben Kanis. Through various workshops she was able to continue to refine her work,

picking up invaluable tips and tricks along the way. Then came perhaps the most difficult part of Carol's journey. Shortly after university she developed MS. This led to Carol not being able to walk for two years. "My body just broke down, it was tough." But despite the setback Carol never stopped, "I just kept drawing."

Through her hard work, today Carol is a widely respected artist with a vault of skills and experiences gained from a lifetime of learning.

Bringing Life

So what is Carol's style? Her calling card? Something that you would think every artist has. According to her she has none. "I wouldn't say I have a style, I'm just too much of a perfectionist to have one", she laughed.



Though when looking at Carol's art there is one common identity that runs throughout. One that you'll be hard-pressed to find anywhere else and works almost as its own style. Detail. Carol's art is so detailed and so realistic it brings life to every subject, enough to leave even the harshest of art judges taken aback. As one artist told her, "I have never seen anybody do work as challenging as you do with such perfection."

On the surface, with such high praise and recognition in the art world, you might expect Carol to take the stereotypical role of the art snob. You wouldn't be farther from the truth. As soon as you enter her door, you feel welcome and at home. You may not be surprised then, to hear of Carol's love for children. Maybe second only to horses, Carol loves painting children. "I love children,





they have a certain light in their eyes and are never afraid to tell you how it is."

As Carol further explained, with every subject she paints or draws she wants to bring out even the smallest of details to help bring life to the piece. This all feeds into a saying that Carol frequently repeats and shows in her art, "Show the innocence in youth and wisdom in age."

Refine Everything

So how does one become a successful artist? How do you

"You're gonna have to study a long time, and practice. You can't just say you want to be an artist. It just doesn't come around like that."

your approach and never stop working at it. That's how you become a true artist."

reach the top of your craft? Carol had some advice for future artists or those struggling to reach their potential, "You're going to have to study a long time, and practice. You can't just say you want to be an artist. It just doesn't come around like that. Refine your work and take your time. Learn



ART LOOK

I was introduced to leather work when I was 8 years old and got a Tandy Leather Kit for Christmas. Since then I have made just about everything with leather except for boots and shoes.

I turned my hobby into a full time business in December 2012 in Tucson before moving to Weatherford, Texas in the Fall of 2016. I've become a multi-award winning saddle maker since moving to Texas and have built over 75 saddles since the move.

-Adam Tanner



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WILLCOX WEST FEST

By Taylor Belden

In April 2022, the Willcox West Fest Ranch Rodeo and Chuck Wagon Cook-off was held for its eighth year. Have you ever been to Willcox West Fest? It is an annual, free event that mixes history, rodeo, family, food and fun!

Events of West Fest

West Fest has many different events that go on during this special, unique weekend. There are vendors, chuckwagons, and a Ranch Rodeo. There were over 40 vendors this year, which Cheryl Moss, the head of West Fest, said is the most they have ever had.

Most of this years vendors were participating for the first time. There were some vendors from out of town, like Safford, Tucson and Benson, but many were local vendors like Ron Applegate, who has been doing West Fest for about 5 years, and Jim Atwood, who said he had been going for a few years.

One well anticipated event is the Ranch Rodeo, where local ranchers compete. This year, each team had to milk a cow, and doctor, tie down and load a horned steer into a trailer, with the quickest time dictating the winner. In between the major rodeo events, junior rodeo events had the stage. On Saturday, when most of the Rodeo takes place, the stands were completely full, with an estimated 3,000 spectators. Cheryl describes West Fest as

a unique event, highlighting the authenticity of the chuckwagons used in the chuck wagon cook-off. "The chuckwagons are authentic. These chuckwagons have been on the trails before.

If you talk to the owners, they have history on them. It's really amazing to know these wagons served ranchers on their trails."

The Chuckwagon cook off starts selling their lunch tickets at 10:00am on Saturday of the West Fest weekend, and start serving lunch at noon. This year, they sold 400 tickets in an hour and a half! They compete against each other to see who can make the best meal out of five components: beans, meat, potatoes, bread and a dessert.

Future of West Fest

Like most events, everybody wants to see them succeed and grow. Cheryl Moss hopes that more chuckwagons will want to participate, once the word gets spread around about West Fest.

"The Chuckwagons are authentic. These chuck wagons have been on trails before. If you talk to the owners, they have history on them. It's really amazing to know these wagons served ranchers on their trails.

The more anything grows, the more work it takes to manage. Cheryl is always looking for volunteers to help! "The Willcox FFA helped us tremendously. They helped us set up tables and chairs, tents, and helped unload wood. Then on Monday when it was all over with, they came and helped us put it all away. It takes an army!"





Melissa Herrera DiPeso, GRI
BROKER OWNER



CONTRIBUTOR GUIDELINES

The High Desert Palette welcomes contributions that highlight creativity and creative people in Southeastern Arizona. We seek to explore the creative impulse, showcase creative product and inspire creatives in all fields. Original contributions in artistic and/or creative fields and articles or feature interviews with the people who create them will be accepted. Let us know of creative individuals we might highlight in future issues.

Please contact *The High Desert Palette* at 520-766-3335 or willcoxtheater@gmail.com to discuss your ideas.



DID YOU KNOW?

150 Years of Ranching

By Josh Allred

Willcox celebrates 150 years of Ranching Heritage in 2022. From the Sierra Bonita in 1872 and through today, the Cowboy Way of Life remains the core of our heritage and our future.

Sierra Bonita Ranch Established (1872)

The Sierra Bonita Ranch was founded by Col Henry Clay Hooker as the first permanent cattle ranch in the Arizona Territory, and is among the oldest cattle ranches in the United States. Because of its impact, the ranch has since been designated as a National Historic Landmark. The ranch lies about 27 miles north of modern day Willcox.

Ranching today

Largest Cattle Shipping Point in the Nation (1885-91)

More and more ranches were established and in 1885, thousands of cattle were driven from the open range to waiting Southern Pacific rail cars. Willcox had earned its reputation of being the cattle capital of the world for being the nation's largest cattle shipping point. By 1891 there were 1.5 million cattle on the open range!

Though on a smaller scale than 1885, ranching life is still very much alive. In fact, the Sierra Bonita Ranch is run by a 6th generation Hooker, Jesse Hooker Davis, in the attitude of carrying the tradition forward.

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