

Domestic and Longhorns – Read the Story

Baby Face (Longhorn Calf)



This little calf is part of a herd I came upon outside of Kerrville. All the animals I saw in this herd were beautiful and it was open range so I was able to get very close to them. This little one was curious and cute as could be.

Council of the Elders



This piece evolved from a photograph that a friend took of her longhorns. She graciously gave me permission to use her photo as a reference. I chose this wonderful piece of spalted maple and the cloud patterns give the image a heavenly effect. These are older cows as you can see by the size of their horns. As I was working on the piece I began thinking about our elders and came up with the title. Then I thought also that I want them to represent 3 aspects of Love: kindness, discipline and wisdom, so I worked to achieve that feel in their faces. May you enjoy these lovely Grandmothers.

I have been thinking for a while about doing a series of images that depict native prairie grasses. Michael Martin Murphy bought some of my longhorn images and in the course of conversation prairie grasses came up. Murph is deeply involved in prairie restoration and preservation (as well as many other worthy endeavors) and he encouraged me to do some images with grasses. That got me moving on the project and the idea for "Indian Grass and Big Boy" was born. I plan several more similar images depicting a specific native prairie grass along with longhorns, horses or native wildlife. The big 4 tall grass prairie species will be first. You can see another example of native grass on my originals page in "Widow Skimmer on Eastern Gamma". Eastern Gamma grass, like many of the grass species, has lovely blooms. Learn more about prairie preservation at www.americanprairiepartners.com

Big Bluestem and Babyface



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Oh Mamma (Longhorn & calf)



I saw this little calf at a longhorn auction and his behavior intrigued me. He kept stretching his head up, looking intently at his mamma, obviously trying to tell her something. He finally got her attention and she put her head down so he could scratch his chin on her big horn. That was a very complex nonverbal communication and boy was that calf happy.

Storm on the Prairie - Longhorns



Storm on the Prairie was inspired by a group of Steers I saw at the YO Ranch. I was there while they were preparing for a longhorn judging and the steers were in temporary corrals two in each pen. These guys were not use to being contained and tempers started to flair. I saw the fight between these two and they had to be

separated. Another steer kept trying to jump out of his pen and the handlers finally had to park a stock trailer next to it to keep him from going over the five foot high rail. These animals require respect. They are strong and large and with such deadly headgear they could badly hurt you just by turning their head to swat a fly.

Tribute to America



Tribute to America was selected by the Kennedy Foundation to be a part of the "Follow the Dream" art tour in 2002. The focus was to encourage disabled people to follow their dreams of involvement in the arts.

Most artists, as did many others, found themselves questioning what they were doing after the events of 9-11. At first we ask if what we are doing is valid, does it really matter in the face of such weighty affairs as this. But soon most of us realize that it is not only valid but our duty to continue artistic expression and creative communication, to speak in a way that crosses language barriers. And many of us felt compelled to make a response to the emotional upheaval of this event. Tribute to America is mine.

I wanted to make a statement that was lovely rather than angry, reaching in rather than lashing out. And I chose to use familiar symbols with deep meanings. Even the wheat which is a variety called "Triumph" is symbolic of our nation's farmers and their role in helping to feed the world.

We need to remember how we felt towards our fellow Americans after the tragedy. Those who died and the loved ones that mourn them will never be forgotten.

The national motto of the United States of America, adopted by congress in 1956:

In God We Trust