





# Wildlife's Wild 100

Prominent animal artists  
to descend on National  
Museum of Wildlife Art for  
the Western Visions exhibition  
in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

**T**op contemporary wildlife artists—and collectors—from around the world will be congregating at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, this September. With a new “Wild 100” approach to its annual *Western Visions* fundraiser, being held August 30 through September 21, the museum has carefully curated a field of 100 living artists working with animal forms in a variety of media.

“Although we’re located in Wyoming, this is not your typical Wild West art event,” says Becky Kimmel, director of programs and events for the museum. “Our *Western Visions* Wild 100 offers a chance to experience, and purchase, the work of some of the best talent in the field.”

While award-winning representational depictions of wildlife from familiar Rocky Mountain species to iconic African animals play an important role in the show and sale, Kimmel also points to numerous Wild 100 artists whose artwork takes an innately contemporary approach. The artwork offered in *Western Visions* 2014 reflects a concerted effort on behalf of the staff at the

National Museum of Wildlife Art to broaden the scope of the art represented to better showcase the many exciting developments in the world of contemporary painting and sculpture depicting wildlife.

Many of the new artists to the show have been on the museum’s radar for a considerable amount of time. For example, painter Robert McCauley has been in the permanent collection since 2003, but is a first-time participant in *Western Visions* this year. In other cases, artists who only recently have come to the museum’s attention were invited. The work of Barbara Kassel and Penelope Gottlieb made a splash at a collections event in 2012 and, after further positive response in exhibits over the last couple of years, both agreed to participate in *Western Visions* 2014. Back in the exhibit after a few years absence is Ron Kingswood, whose return to figurative painting has been greeted with enthusiasm by many



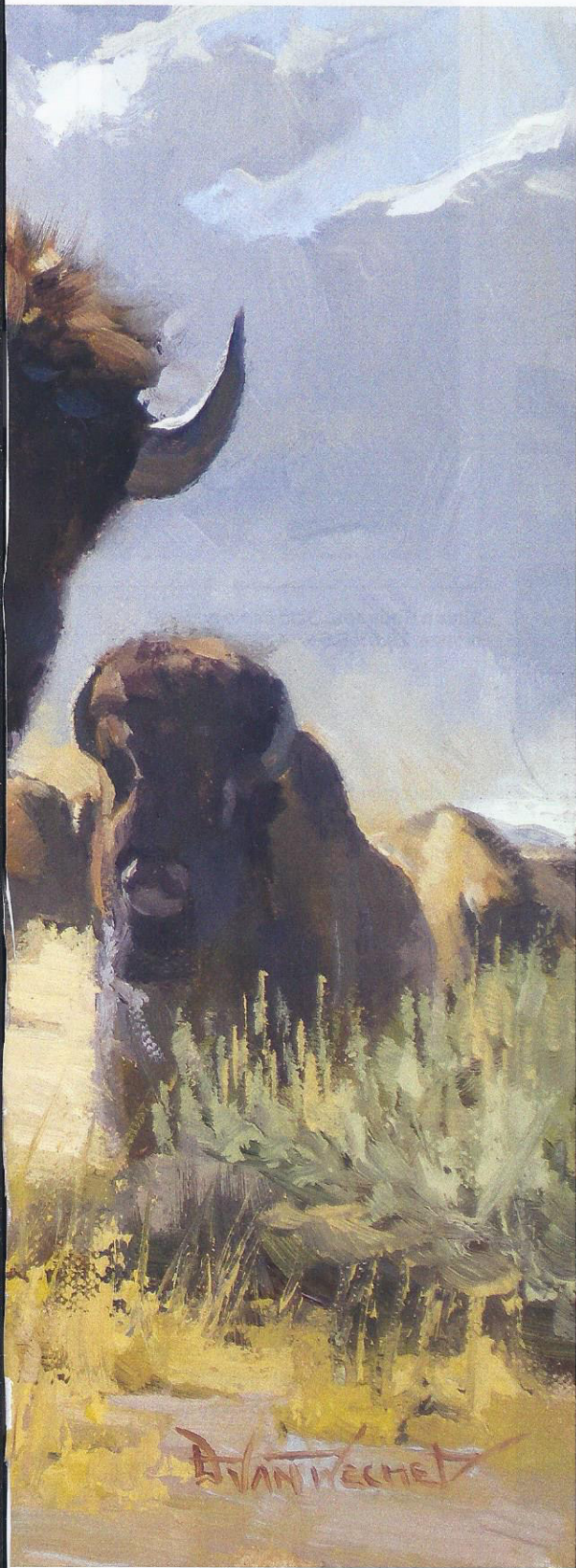
Mark Eberhard, *Paintbrush Elk*, oil on canvas, 36 x 36"





Dustin Van Wechel, *Boss*, oil, 9 x 12"





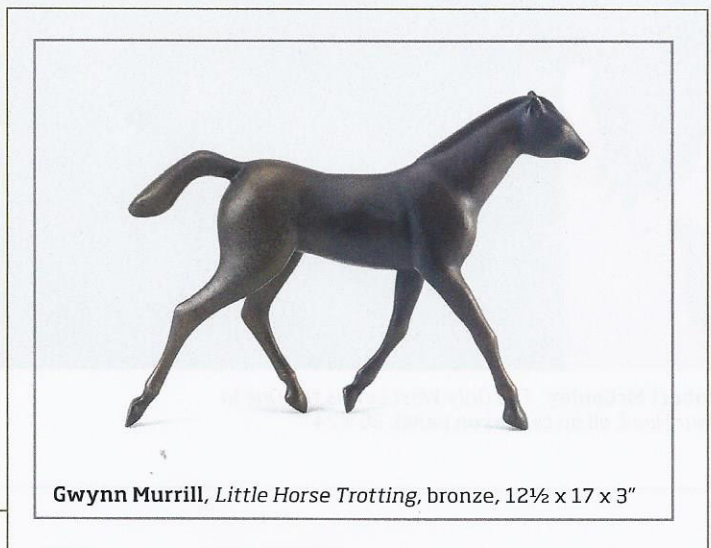
**Robert McCauley, *Bear x3*, oil on canvas on panel, 18 x 24"**

collectors.

These artists represent alternate ways of looking at wildlife and broaden the perspective of the show and sale. Similarly, featured artists Ewoud de Groot and Gwynn Murrill take a modern approach to their work. De Groot, 2014 *Western Visions* featured painter, for instance, evokes a tension between his modernistic abstract backgrounds and his beautifully precise figurative subjects, often seabirds from the Wadden Sea Wetlands off the northern Netherlands coast. The fluid sculptures of *Western Visions* featured sculptor Murrill, whose signature bronzes are represented in the National Museum of Wildlife

Art's permanent collection, distill animal forms to their essence, at once abstract and instilled with vital personality.

To represent the scope of wildlife art being created today, painters and sculptors working in a more traditional, naturalistic style are also, of course, strongly represented. There is master landscapist Jim Wilcox, African wildlife sculptor Rob Glen, sensitively drawn Western work by Sarah Woods, and dynamic scenes created by Dustin Van Wechel. Other remarkable contemporary wildlife artworks available for purchase through this year's Wild 100 show, which takes place on September 12, include

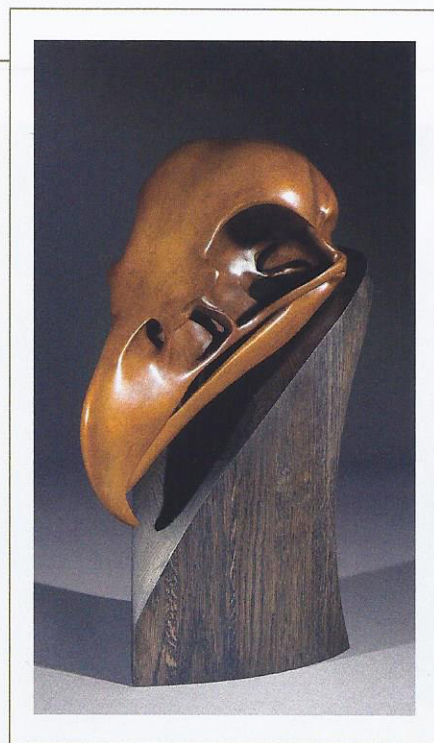


**Gwynn Murrill, *Little Horse Trotting*, bronze, 12½ x 17 x 3"**





**Robert McCauley**, *The Only West Left is the One in Your Head*, oil on canvas on panel, 36 x 24"



**Simon Gudgeon**, *Bald Eagle on Base*, bronze, 19.6 x 8.6 x 14.9"

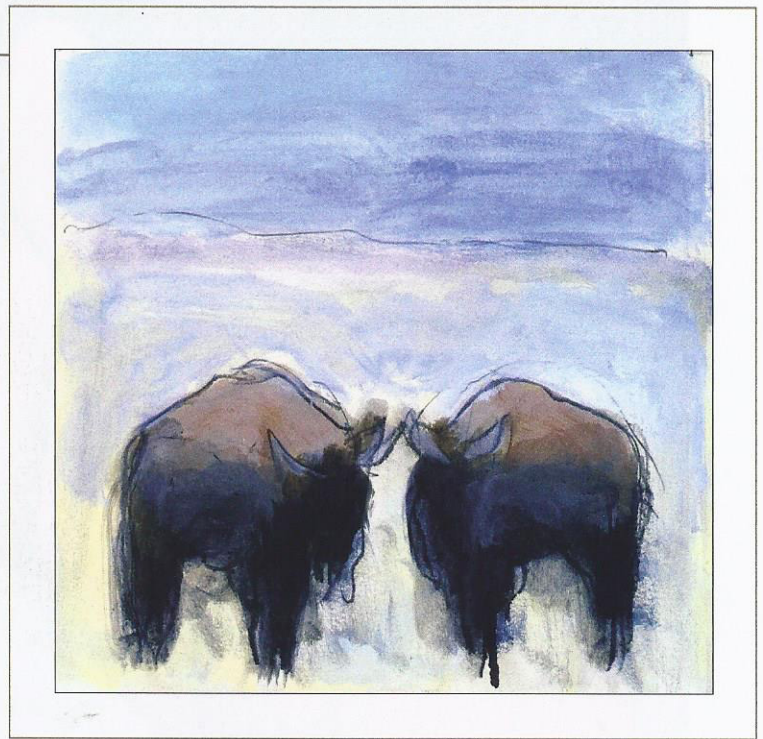
a deceptively simple 10-by-10-inch work on paper by internationally known Western impressionist Theodore Waddell, two iconic ink-on-limestone birds of prey by New York sculptor Jane Rosen, a 36-inch-square rare elk oil painting by Mark Eberhard, whose work was the focal point of a National Museum of Wildlife Art avian art exhibition, and a minimalist bronze cougar skull inspired by the recent Kenya travels of British sculptor Simon Gudgeon, whose *Isis* can be seen both in London's Hyde Park and on the National Museum of Wildlife Art's Sculpture Trail.

The Wild 100 approach allows the National Museum of Wildlife Art to showcase a combination of well-established top-selling artists and emerging talents in an exceptional arts experience for artists and collectors alike. Each Wild 100 artist was given the opportunity to submit more than one artwork. Regular attendees to *Western Visions* will note a change when they come to see the show in person. In





**Penelope Gottlieb**, *Schinus Terebinthifolius*, acrylic and ink over Audubon print, 23 x 17"



**Theodore Waddell**, *Red Rock Buffalo #8*, oil, encaustic and graphite on paper, 10 x 10"

previous years, a gallery featuring miniatures was complemented by two additional galleries featuring larger works. This year, the intention is to hang all of the artists' work together, giving a more robust sense of their artistic output. There will be a selection of work that is offered via sealed bid, but the majority of work will be sold via the well-known "intent to purchase" option, familiar to all show and sale regulars.

Petersen Curator of Art and Research Adam Duncan Harris remarks on the format, "I think this approach is in keeping with the tradition of quality that people associate with *Western Visions* while it also reflects a broader institutional interest in investigating the multifaceted ways artists today are using animals in their artwork. Just in the past year, we have had staff visit the *Frieze Art Fair* in New York and *Art Basel* in Miami to get a sense of how artists outside of our normal purview are tackling animal-related subjects. This fall, we are working with the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno on a groundbreaking exhibition called *Late Harvest* that will juxtapose some classic wildlife art from our collection—such

as Wilhelm Kuhnert, Carl Rungius, and Richard Friese—with cutting-edge photography and sculpture featuring taxidermy. On the more traditional side, we are sending over 100 of our classic American paintings and sculptures to The Baker Museum in Naples, Florida, for a wonderful survey show that will highlight some of our best-known works. That exhibit, titled *Exploring America*, will open November 8. The revised format for *Western Visions* is nicely aligned with these other museum initiatives."

Harris continues, "We are excited about this year's show and are confident that our enthusiasm combined with that of our participating artists will translate to a great experience for our guests. *Western Visions* is not only a great sale, it's a great show that reflects a cross section of the amazing work being created by artists today."

In addition to the Wild 100 Show & Sale on September 12, popular *Western Visions* events include the chance to meet and mingle with the artists at the Wild 100 Artist Party, September 11—including the opportunity to experience the work and techniques of featured artists

de Groot and Murrill in live presentations; a Jewelry & Artisans luncheon and show and sale on September 3, 4 and 5; and a free Palates & Palettes tasting and viewing event featuring culinary offerings from the Rising Sage Café on September 5.

Other *Western Visions* activities include the paintings, sculpture and sketch shows and sales, opening August 30, and the follow-up Art a' Brewin' browsing and buying opportunity on September 24. For more information and a complete schedule of *Western Visions* events, visit [www.westernvisions.org](http://www.westernvisions.org).

## EVENT

### Western Visions

WHEN: August 30-September 21, 2014

WHERE: National Museum of Wildlife Art, 2820 Rungius Road, Jackson, WY 83001

INFORMATION: (307) 732-5424, [www.westernvisions.org](http://www.westernvisions.org)

## VISIONS WEST CONTEMPORARY

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