

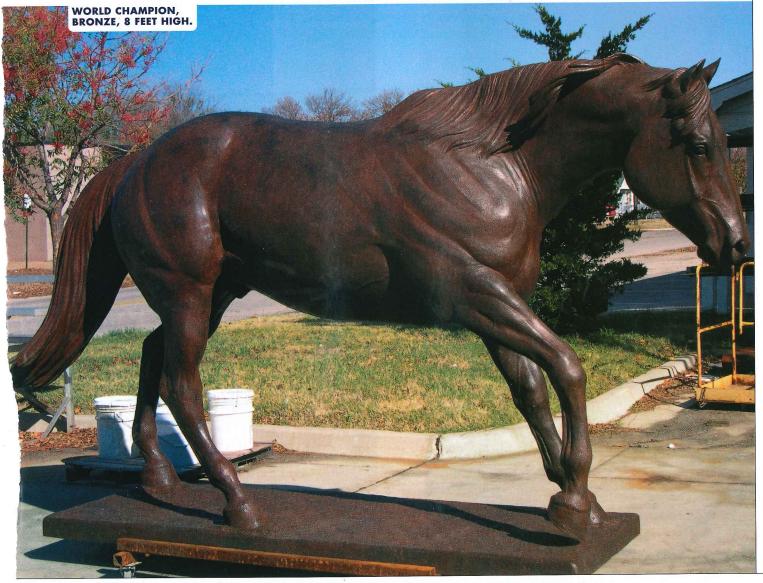
HAROLD T. HOLDEN

This November 16, during the World Quarter Horse Show at the Oklahoma State Fair Grounds, one horse in particular will stand literally head and shoulders above the other winners as WORLD CHAMPION, a life-and-a-quarter-size representation of a classic American Quarter Horse, will be permanently installed on the site. Sculptor Harold T. Holden, a 67-year-old native Oklahoman, comes naturally by the knowledge that makes his sculpture so vividly lifelike that you half expect to see steam coming from the steed's nostrils. "I've had a horse since I was 4 years old," says H, as he is widely known, "and my wife Edna Mae and I both rope and keep our hands in the cowboy way."

Indeed, Holden created the sculpture in the studio on his ranch outside the town of Kremlin, OK, starting with a plasticine "pinch model" just a few inches long "to kind of work it out in the round" before enlarging it to a maquette and then scaling it up from there. "Edna Mae is a ranch girl and horsewoman, and she critiques me often," adds H. "It used to make me mad a little bit, but then I realized she's generally right." Collectors can judge the work's verisimilitude for themselves in a 12-inch-tall limited-edition version of WORLD CHAMPION or in Holden's many other western-themed works. His forthcoming monuments include a 7-foot-tall sculpture of Oklahoma City civic leader Edward L. Gaylord for the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, and a pioneer family for H's hometown of Enid. See Holden's work at Dodson Gallery, Oklahoma City, OK; Wilcox Galleries, Jackson Hole, WY; DeMott Gallery, Vail, CO; Pitzer's Fine Arts, Wimberley, TX; and www.hholden.com.

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Norman Kolpas is a Los Angeles-based freelancer who writes for Home, Mountain Living, and Colorado Homes & Lifestyles as well as Southwest Art.



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