

ISSUE FEATURING

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Cowboys & Indians

New work by Harold T. Holden and Mike Larsen opens April 20 at Oklahoma Hall of Fame at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum.

With sculpture on pedestals filling the gallery and oil paintings on the wall, visitors will have much to look at in *Cowboys & Indians*, a new exhibition featuring the bronze work of Harold T. Holden and the oil paintings of Mike Larsen. The exhibition opens April 20 at the Oklahoma Hall of Fame at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

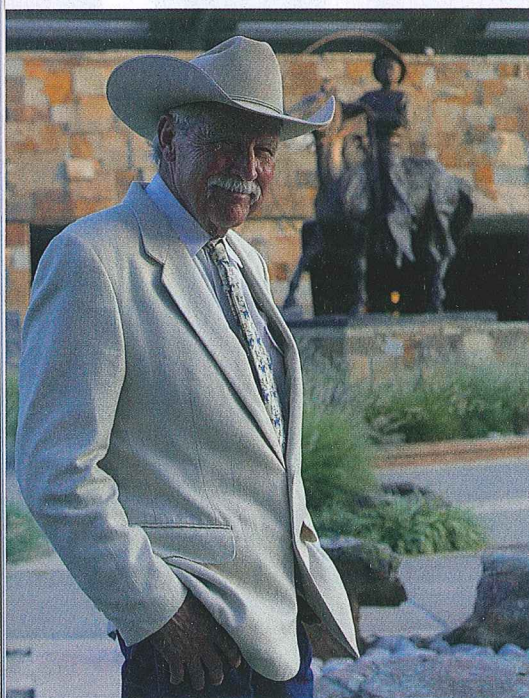
The title of the show derives from each artists' chosen subject matter: Holden, a member of the Cowboy Artists of America, has long been known for his action-packed cowboy bronzes, and Larsen's love for Native American subject matter. Both artists live and work in Oklahoma. Larsen's work is also known for its highly stylized rendering of

human figures.

"The question that a lot of people ask me is why the hands are so big," he says, adding that he learned the unique style while studying art in Houston. "The teacher I was studying with overemphasized hands, because he had studied all the old sculptors, including Rodin and Michelangelo. They always played with the hands and made them a little too big. Think about the statue of David by Michelangelo. If he had made the hands the way they should have been on

a youth that age, it would have not have the power that it has today. That idea flowed right into my paintings."

This unique style can be seen in *The Raven*, with its chief figure, war-battered headdress blowing in the wind, clinging loosely to a blanket with strong, large hands that show the man's age and status as an important member of the tribe. "He's one of my favorite models. He was a policeman, a Cheyenne, and he has this enormous aura of strength around him," Larsen says. "He really



Painter Harold T. Holden, who will be inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum on April 22 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Harold T. Holden, *Brushpopper*, 23 x 21 x 10"





Mike Larsen, *Glass Horse*, oil on canvas, 48 x 36"



Harold T. Holden, *Boomer*, bronze, 5½ x 6½ x 3"



Mike Larsen, *The Raven*, oil on canvas, 40 x 60"

embodies the figure here."

Holden's works include *Brushpopper*, featuring a horse and rider descending down a brush-lined hill, and *Boomer*, an iconic image of a horse and rider seemingly dashing out of the pedestal it's mounted on. "From when I was a little kid, the

West has been everything. The West inspires everything that I do," Holden says from his Oklahoma studio.

In addition to being part of the two-artist exhibition, Holden will also be inducted into the Hall of Great of Westerners at the nearby National Cowboy & Western Heritage

Museum on April 22. He will join artists, actors, ranchers and celebrities, including Gene Autry, Edward Borein, Will James, Anne Marion, Frederic Remington and Olaf Wieghorst.

"When my wife told me I thought they made a mistake. That, or she was kidding around with me. I thought that for a few days, and then she showed me the letter that they sent to me," Holden says. "Gosh, so many people should be there before me. I'm honored to be included with some of my heroes."

Holden is very much worthy of the honor, Larsen says, adding that he met the artist and his wife when Holden was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2014. "He's one of the greatest artists I know," Larsen says. "And he's very deserving of this great honor." 🐾

Cowboys & Indians

When: April 20-August 26, 2017;
April 20, 5-7 p.m., opening reception

Where: Oklahoma Hall of Fame at the
Gaylord-Pickens Museum, 1400 Classen
Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Information: (405) 235-4458,
www.oklahomahof.com