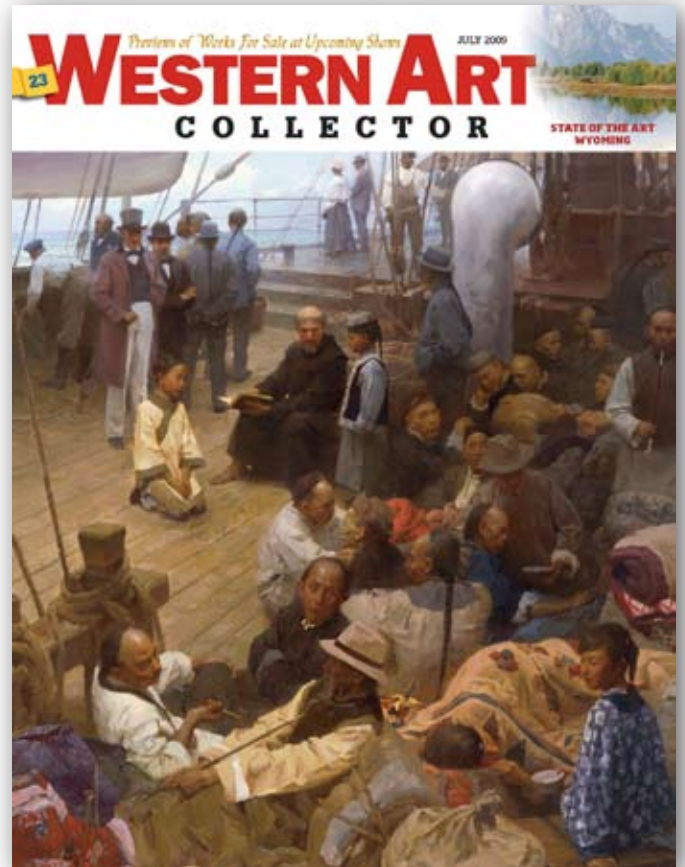


As seen in the  
July 2009 issue of

**WESTERN ART**  
COLLECTOR



**UPCOMING SHOW**

Up to 25 works on show  
June 24-July 15, 2009

McLarr Fine Art  
225 Canyon Road  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 988-1161

**SHOW LOCATION SANTA FE, NM**

**CHERI CHRISTENSEN**



IMAGE COURTESY KYLE ZIMMERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

*Pasteurized*



*Ole McDonald*, oil on board, 12 x 9"

Farm animals continue to take center stage in Cheri Christensen's new paintings. Living on 10 acres in northern New Mexico surrounded by livestock, she finds inspiration at every turn and many become the star of her canvases. In her latest piece *Do You See It?*, Christensen uses her own chickens as models in this entertaining composition.

"I like to add humor to my work and I like to play with titles," she says.

These and other new works will be featured in Christensen's solo show titled *Pasteurized* at McLarr Fine Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Many of the scenes stem from road trips to New Mexico, Texas, and her native Washington state.

In *Do You See It?*, Christensen conveys the energy of these chicks with quick brushstrokes, palette knife and looser edges.

"I like the group dynamics. It leads you in and makes you look where they're looking," she says.

Inspired by the simple, everyday interaction of farm animals in their environment, Christensen uses strong complementary colors, light, and texture of oil paint to convey a mood and personality of her subject matter. She enjoys playing color relationships against each other, catching the way light dances across the form.

It's not unusual to find Christensen crouched on the ground at eye level with her subject snapping photos that will be used as reference for future compositions.

"Sometimes when I'm photographing, I can see the painting right there in my head," she says. "I'm trying to engage the viewer and get across the personality



*Lone Ranger*, oil on board, 40 x 60"



*The Collector Says . . .*

*"Cheri Christensen's work inevitably stands out throughout our property. We raise Texas longhorns and Cheri has a remarkable talent for balancing her paintings of longhorns ... somewhere between reality and illusion. She has a deliberate, yet spontaneous ability for nailing her subject's every look, emotion, muscle and curve. Cheri's sense of light, scale and color are truly remarkable."*

*— Marc A. Sparks, Dallas, Texas*

*Jack*, oil on board, 12 x 12"



*Rabble Rousers*, oil on board, 36 x 60"



*Do You See It?*, oil on board, 8 x 10"



**A Clear Blue Afternoon**, oil on board, 24 x 36"

and feel of the animal. Technically I'm doing that with more abstract or softened backgrounds. I'm keeping the animals sharper and the background more blurry."

In this show, Christensen will incorporate more longhorns into her work. One of her collectors in Texas, Marc A. Sparks, invited her to his Timber Creek Ranch in Dallas to paint the cattle, which struck a chord.

"I fell in love with the longhorns. They're a beautiful majestic animal. I love painting the horns because the light reflects underneath," says Christensen.


A major new piece titled *Lone Ranger* embodies the contrast of black against white. Christensen spotted the subject among a herd of longhorns and singled him out in this dramatic animal portrait.

"He's so majestic on his own," she says. "I tried to keep it simple so the eye went to him. I like the simplicity and strength it conveys."

A member of Oil Painters of America as well as the National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society, Christensen has won awards in numerous regional, national, and international shows. Following in the Russian Impressionist tradition, Christensen paints what she wants, adopting expressionistic and representational styles to create images that are uniquely hers. Attracted to light and color, Christensen will jump out of a car in all kinds of weather to photograph a subject that grabs her attention.

"The same scenes at a certain time of day can be so inspiring. If the light hits

an animal just right, I go nuts. I get so excited. It's very exciting when I see the light like that. That's what moves me," she says. 🐾

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to 

[www.westernartcollector.com](http://www.westernartcollector.com)

**Price Range Indicator**  
*Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.*

	Small	Medium	Large
1999	\$900	\$2,000	\$7,000
2004	\$1,400	\$3,600	\$10,000
2009	\$2,000	\$5,200	\$15,000