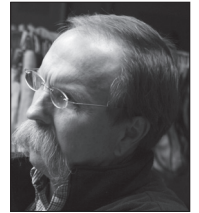


UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 10 works on show
March 25, 2010

The Legacy Gallery
7178 Main Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
(480) 945-1113

SHOW LOCATION SCOTTSDALE, AZ



JOHN COLEMAN

Tribute in bronze

Renowned Arizona sculptor John Coleman spent the past six years creating a tribute series to explorer artists Karl Bodmer and George Catlin, who in the 1830s documented the tribes that Lewis and Clark encountered some 30 years earlier. Consisting mainly of portraits of Native American dignitaries, the pair painted within six months of each other yet never met.

"Bodmer and Catlin are the only artists who painted these guys where they stood. Some of these Indians are famous while others would

have been lost to history had they not stepped out of their tepees and gotten their portraits painted," adds Coleman. "These highly detailed portraits are some of the only records an artist like me has to draw on for historical accuracy from this pre-photo era."

When Coleman first decided to take up sculpting, among his list of projects was this series. The first piece—*Addih-Hiddisch, Hidatsa Chief*—was released in 2004 at the Cowboy Artists of America exhibition at the Phoenix Art Museum where it took Best of

Show. It now sits in the museum's permanent collection. On March 25 the final two pieces in the series will be unveiled at The Legacy Gallery in Scottsdale, where the entire series will be available for the first time.

The introduction of the final two sculptures of the Explorer Artists, Bodmer-Catlin Series—*Pachpuwa-Chta Arikara* and *White Buffalo/Blackfeet*—has become so highly anticipated that not even our editors are privy to the finished bronzes. Like us, eager collectors will have to wait until the auspicious unveiling on



Hisoosánchees, Little Spaniard, bronze, 32 x 21 x 10", ed. of 35



Mato-Topo, Four Bears, bronze, 36½ x 20 x 10½", ed. of 35



Addih-Hiddisch,
Hidatsa Chief, bronze,
35 x 18 x 11", ed. of 35

The Collectors Say . . .

"In terms of Coleman's Bodmer/Catlin series, in my opinion, that body of work is most distinctive in what he has done."

**– Howard and Frankie Alper,
Scottsdale, AZ**

Thursday, March 25, at 7 p.m.

The series includes 10 standing Indian figures. Coleman was methodical in choosing subjects with interesting stories, and because they're a set, he made each the same scale. In the artist's goal of fleshing out these portraits as a sculptor, he paid particular attention to the way each figure stood so they didn't appear in a cookie-cutter pose.

"The goal of the piece is their portraits. I made sure I was only going to do portraits with the essence of the figures coming through," says Coleman. "I've never done anything like this before. It's the first time I've ever done anything that is pure history."

A member of the National Sculpture Society, Coleman sculpts in a painterly style yet he's well-known for his accuracy and integrity in his work. For one of Coleman's top collectors, Howard C. Alper and his wife Frankie, this is what sets his work apart.

"The main thing is his attention to detail. It's like near perfection, everything is so exact and lifelike," says Howard Alper of Scottsdale. "In terms of his Bodmer/Catlin series, in my opinion, that body of work is most distinctive in what he has done."

Both the Joselyn Art Museum and the Booth Western Art Museum are acquiring complete sets of this series. Coleman attributes the series success to the fact that there's a tendency in Western art to portray tribes of the 1870s and 1880s instead of going back to the 1830s and '40s.

"These guys really looked different. They're not you're stereotypical movie Indian," he says. "I think this is one reason why the series is so popular, because it's something new to collectors." 🍷

For a direct link to the
exhibiting gallery go to



www.westernartcollector.com