

Previews of Works For Sale at Upcoming Shows

FEBRUARY 2015

90

WESTERN ART

COLLECTOR



UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 10 works

Feb. 24-March 13, 2015

InSight Gallery
214 W. Main Street
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
(830) 997-9920

SHOW LOCATION FREDERICKSBURG, TX

CHERI CHRISTENSEN

Struttin' their stuff

When Cheri Christensen moved to Texas from New Mexico, she instantly recalled the old Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson song "Luckenbach, Texas," about a patch of land near Fredericksburg that was populated by more roosters than people. Christensen, curious about the song, struck out to find it.

"So I get to Luckenbach and there's nothing there. It's basically a bar, general store, post office and then this dance hall area where people can come and play music. It's a really interesting place, where all these old cowboy

and motorcycle guys hang out," Christensen says. "Someone suggested I paint the chickens, but they were really hard to photograph. So it slowly became dark and we sat down with some beers, and all the sudden all these wild roosters come out and just walk right up to us. And they're just so proud struttin' their stuff."

From that initial trip, as well as return trips with art students, Christensen painted *Lord of Luckenbach*, her heroic portrait of one of the wild roosters of the Texas outpost. The oil piece and many other wildlife paintings will appear at a new solo exhibition of her work

at InSight Gallery beginning February 24 in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Christensen is no stranger to putting herself in odd places to get inspiration or reference material. When she mentions her piece *Duck Race*, featuring two waddling ducks, she freely admits that duck poop was involved. "You have to be willing to lay down and get a little messy. Wear old clothes, that's for sure," she says. "You end up seeing them from their perspective, on their level. And ducks are just so funny to watch walk toward you. I was laughing so hard I could barely take the photo."



Late Evening Light, oil, 40 x 60"



Blustery Day, oil, 6 x 12"



Lord of Luckenbach, oil, 20 x 16"




Duck Race, oil, 24 x 18"

During another scouting trip, this time at a ranch belonging to InSight Gallery owners David and Meredith Plesko, Christensen found herself in front of a group of excited longhorns. All she could do was freeze and hope the animals wouldn't turn into her—they didn't. After they settled down from the excitement, she was able to capture reference material for

Late Evening Light, a serene dusk scene with one of the magnificent cattle.

"I really want the focus to be on the animals, to show how they feel. I don't want an exact replica of the animals, but more of an impressionist rendering of them," Christensen says of her cattle, ducks, chicks, roosters and other animals. "I don't want every feather or

mark. It's more about mood and feeling, and trying to convey the nature of the animal with as few brushstrokes as possible." 🖌️

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to 
www.westernartcollector.com