

Artist Statement - The Saddle Entries

Horses always rely on their most basic instinct to survive in the face of danger. All things are compromised when faced with death- pride, beauty, anything not entirely essential for their existence to continue. Throughout their history, horses have carried civilization across the world, only surviving because of their instinct and durability.

Each print in this series of eight, serves as a personal exploration of not only my relationship with the horse, but additionally reflect the iconic view of the animal as a symbol of beauty. Through the use of color, I express the childlike fascination that surrounds the horse. I use the texture of the wood, as well as the lines of the woodcut, to create a vibration that expresses the raw instincts of the horse. The rough line quality mimics the brutality that is used in humans' control of horses.

I am also interested in the tools that we have used to dominate this animal, and the mythical and romanticized idea of the cowboy. Through using stock images and bright colors, this romantic idea provides another layer of information. The cowboy and the brutal tools of control are also represented through the tension that is in the line quality of each print.