

UPCOMING GROUP SHOW

Up to 25 works
August 2-15, 2011

Altamira Fine Art
172 Center Street
Jackson, WY 83001
(307) 739-4700

SHOW LOCATION JACKSON, WY

DONNA HOWELL-SICKLES AND DUKE BEARDSLEY

Today's West

Ties to the historical West inform the paintings of **Donna Howell-Sickles** and **Duke Beardsley** as they dynamically interpret the West of today. Both artists use movement of the figure as part of the composition, zeroing in on the same classic Western icon: the cowboy/cowgirl.

Donna Howell-Sickles retells women's stories and myths using the cowgirl as a medium. Her colorful, contemporary imagery of empowered cowgirls has become synonymous with women and their role in the American West, narratives that continue to bring the Texas artist national acclaim.

"It is inevitable, when you live a full life, that you will be from time to time a target. Your passions, your commitments, your talents, your beauty and even simply who you are will make you a target," remarks Howell-Sickles.

In this grouping she explores living calmly in the center of the targets, as effectively illustrated in *Making Herself a Target* and

The Stars at Night.

"Both allow the cowgirl to live unabashedly at the center of the target enjoying a life filled with the satisfaction of challenge," muses Howell-Sickles.

Executed in her trademark style—often leaving the dark line drawing aspect visible—Howell-Sickles says of the new work: "There is more energy in the loose application of paint and in the bold lines of the drawing."

Duke Beardsley's art reflects his deep Western roots. A fifth-generation Colorado rancher, for most of his life he has been drawing and painting the life he leads. Beardsley's work blends modern artistic elements with the traditional icons of the West, enabling him to crossover from the Western art world into the mainstream.

The artist's large-scale canvases demand attention. He continues to work larger and larger, he says, because the "working cowboy—the cowboy icon—demands it."

"I love the feeling these canvases are throwing back at me," he continues. "Like them or not, you can't miss them, or at least I hope not."

Meanwhile Beardsley continues to push the boundaries on color and composition, reaching "somewhere unfamiliar and suggestive but vital and essential," he muses.

"I also hope to infuse the work with the energy and pulse of modern-day ranching. It's diverse and varied out there and always a challenge. From floods and never-summer up north to wracking drought down south, there's no shortage of subjects to draw to," he continues.

Beardsley's pieces *Esencia* and *Roundhouse* evoke the newest energy. "Big and bold; iconic and evocative...that's what I'm after," he says.

Opening August 2, Altamira Fine Art will pair Howell-Sickles and Beardsley in their first two-person gallery show. An artists' reception will be held August 4 from 6 to 8 p.m.

"I'm wild about the pairing as I'm wild



Donna Howell-Sickles, *Dancing In The Shadows*, acrylic on canvas, 36 x 36"



Donna Howell-Sickles, *The Stars at Night*, acrylic on canvas, 24 x 24"



Duke Beardsley, *Esencia*, oil, 72 x 60"



Duke Beardsley, *Roundhouse*, oil, 72 x 60"



Donna Howell-Sickles, *Making a Target of Herself*, acrylic on canvas, 36 x 48"



Duke Beardsley, *Make A Stand*, mixed media, 48 x 52"

about Donna. She's a class act and a total pro," says Beardsley. "Donna has taken the cowgirl to places it would never have gone before. I can only hope to accomplish a fraction of what she's done."

Howell-Sickles echoes his enthusiasm for the show.

"We both have strong graphic elements in the construction of the art. The background in both our artworks is simplified and good drawing is a key element," she says. "Duke and I have never had a show together and I cannot wait to see how it looks on the wall." 🍷

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to

www.westernartcollector.com