

**UPCOMING SHOW**

Up to 12 works  
July 12-25, 2012

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

**SHOW LOCATION JACKSON, WY**

## R. TOM GILLEON

### *Bulls and bears*

One of R. Tom Gilleon's 12 major paintings for his solo show at Altamira Fine Art focuses on the two symbolic beasts of finance: the bear and the bull. The "bull market" represents a healthy economy while the "bear market" signifies economic distress. The Montana artist says he sees similarities between these two symbols and the Native American culture and our culture.

"There's parallels of how one culture sees things," states Gilleon. "The big topic on everyone's mind is bulls and bears—the stock market. In a way it was identical. Their [Native American] way of life was dependant on

the bull and that's where we want the stock market to go; to them the bear ripped up that lifestyle."

The painting titled *Bulls and Bears* consists of nine panels each featuring a war shield with a buffalo or a bear symbol.

"The show deals very much with the way of life...things were good and things were bad. You have to take the good with the bad," says Gilleon.

Among the new work will be another trilogy of three tepees, titled *Altos Llanos*. "It epitomizes the show," says Gilleon. "It shows more of the direction I'm going. There's more intense colors and contrast between colors. I'm

pushing even more so the contrast between light and dark as well as the colors."

Absent from the tepees in *Altos Llanos* is the traditional design of ponies, and the backdrop of their encampment. Rather, it is about how much the artist has eliminated from the image.

"For me, my paintings are as much about what's not in them as what is in them. What I left out is as important as what I put in," clarifies Gilleon.

In contrast to the intense colors juxtaposed between light and dark in *Bulls and Bears* and *Herd Overhead*, Gilleon's solitary figures are presented in a very subtle manner to look like



*Little Plume*, oil on canvas, 40 x 28"



*Bull Shield*, oil on canvas, 40 x 28"



*Altos Llanos*, oil on canvas, 50 x 80"



*Bulls and Bears*, oil on canvas, 60 x 60"

faded and sepia-toned postcards.

"That was the look I was after on that set. The old way of life in the 1800s is fading out, cracked around the corners and very vintage-like," he states.

Gilleon's full-length Native American portraits display average people rather than historic figures.

"I've treated them as almost floating. I don't put them into a literal background," he notes. "I tried to isolate them so it's almost like they are in limbo. I tried to separate them from a narrative." 🐾

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
2007	\$7,500-\$10,000	\$15,000-\$20,000	\$70,000-\$90,000
2012	\$8,000-\$15,000	\$24,000-\$55,000	\$70,000-\$150,000