

UPCOMING SHOW
Up to 20 works on show
Sept. 11-24, 2008

Mountain Trails Gallery
150 Center St.
Jackson Hole, WY 83001
(307) 734-8150

SHOW LOCATION JACKSON HOLE, WY

R. TOM GILLEON

Northern Plains

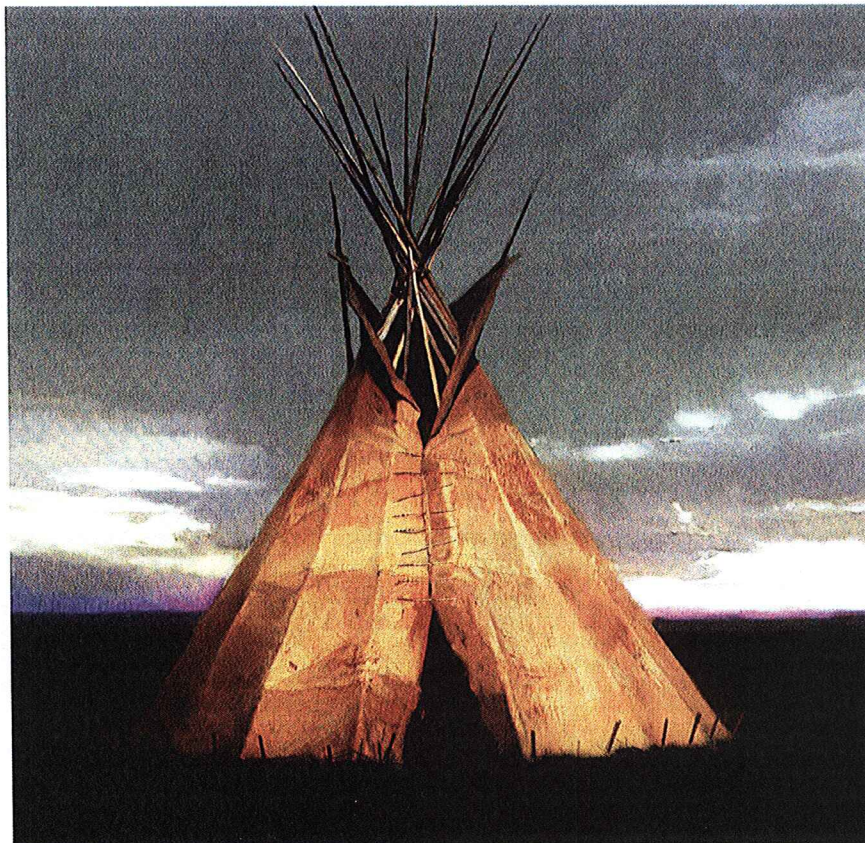
For collectors interested in American Indian paintings, R. Tom Gilleon's work fills the niche. While the theme of his latest renditions remains Native Americans, each piece is unique. Gilleon likens his craft to that of a theatrical actor who seemingly performs the same role every night on stage but in reality he or she is adding or subtracting elements as necessary to enhance the character.

"Every time I start a painting it's a departure," he explains from his 2,000-acre ranch outside Cascade, Mont. "If someone asked me to duplicate a piece, I could never do it. Every brushstroke is new and different."

In his latest solo exhibition titled *Northern Plains*, Gilleon will unveil several new oil paintings along with a few watercolors and possibly mixed media. His paintings will vary in size from 30 by 30 inches up to 60 by 120 inches. Gilleon's work will be mounted Sept. 11-24 at Mountain Trails Gallery in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

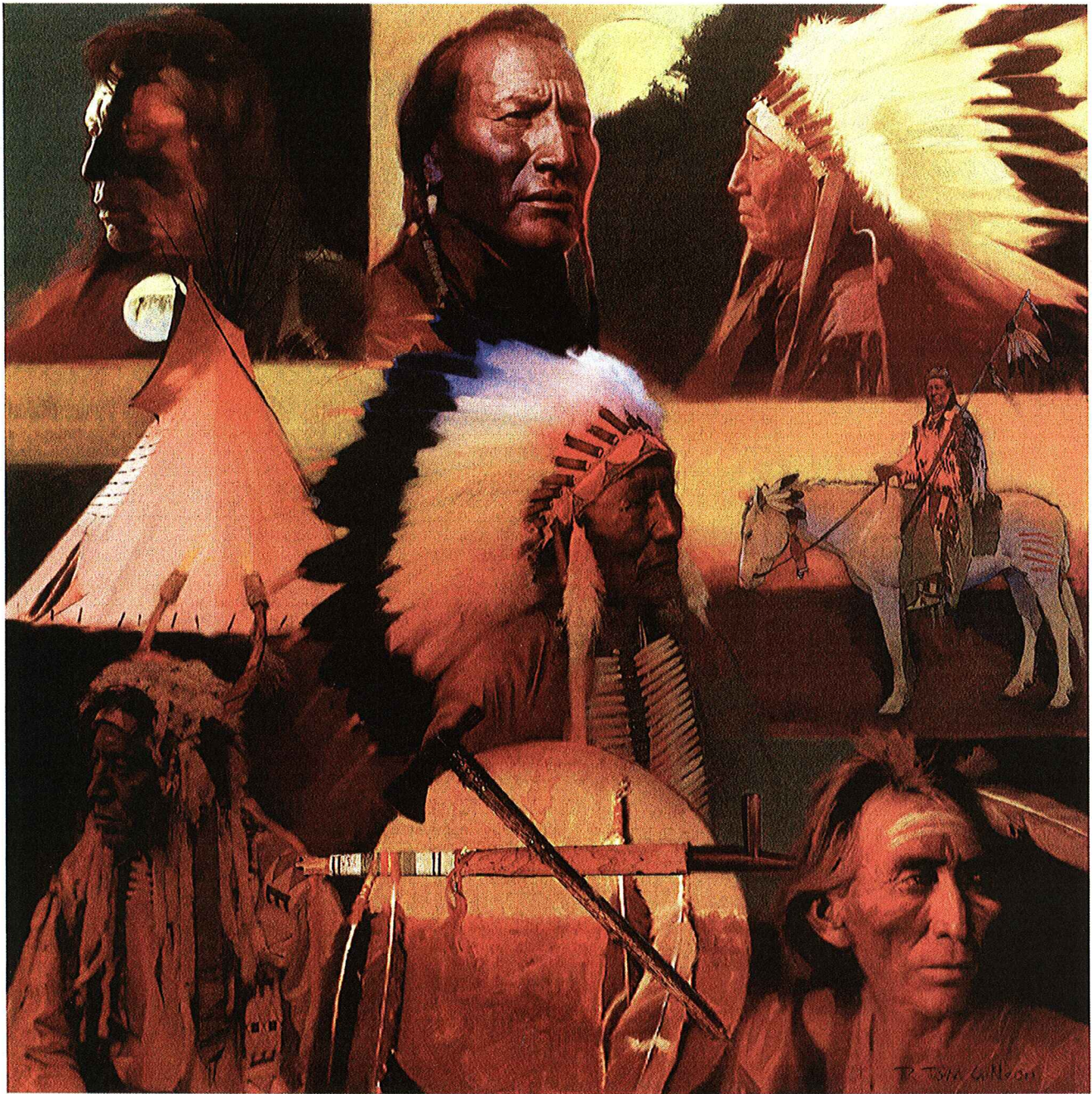
Gilleon describes his new paintings as Western traditional American Indian done in a contemporary pop-art style, some of which is reminiscent of that by Andy Warhol, one of his heroes. A powerful example of this can be seen in his latest "grid" painting, titled *Northern Plains*, where he combines nine individual images that complement one another in an engaging way. Like Warhol, Gilleon doesn't repeat the same image but rather reworks it to create unique and different juxtapositions. The Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Ga., recently purchased this painting for its permanent collection.

Inspiration abounds on the Gilleons remote Montana ranch.



Fourteen Cows, oil on canvas, 48 x 48"





Paha Sapa, oil on canvas, 60 x 60"

"He is one of the leading practitioners of contemporary Western art today," writes Seth M. Hopkins, the museum's executive director. "Gilleon represents a new chapter in the time honored Western tradition of former illustrators becoming known as fine artists."

Another example of Gilleon's grid painting can be seen in *Paha Sapa*. The Paha Sapa is what the Lakota called the Black Hills. From a distance the dark trees covering the hills looked black. Paha Sapa became a spiritual center for

the tribe and eventually introduced them to George Armstrong Custer.

Gilleon recites nine reasons why he chooses the number nine for his multiple image paintings, but, the main reason, he says, is because "it's the better way to divide a square that is compositionally pleasing."

As a former designer and illustrator for such companies as Walt Disney's Imagineering, Gilleon was forced to adhere to detail, but now, as a fine artist, he annihilates it. Instead of trying to tell

a particular story in his paintings, he seeks to evoke emotion.

"I like paintings that suggest rather than render detail," he adds. "Taking away the narrative from a painting is what I try to do."

Gilleon's attempt to eliminate nonessential details can be seen in his painting *Best Out West*. Representing the artist's new direction, he takes a popular icon of the West—a grain elevator—and reduces it to the lowest common denominator. Unlike his



The Collector Says . . .

"R. Tom Gilleon is an elegant realist. Elegant realism is what Keats meant by 'beauty is truth, truth beauty.' . . . I hope my heirs and assigns manage to hold onto the three paintings by R. Tom Gilleon I now own but if they don't, I guess my greatest chance of relative immortality is my place in the record of their provenance for as long as our republic lasts."

—Patrick Hemingway, son of the late American novelist Ernest Hemingway



Cardinal Number III, oil on canvas, 60 x 120"

contemporaries, Gilleon doesn't aim for historical correctness in his work. Rather, he paints for pure pleasure.

"If it makes a better picture, I change it . . . like a politician," he chuckles.

Gilleon takes his mantra from the '60s, saying, "If it feels good do it." Using texture of the paint and thick brushstrokes, Gilleon makes a visual connection between three basic shapes—triangles, squares and circles—relying on his intuition for

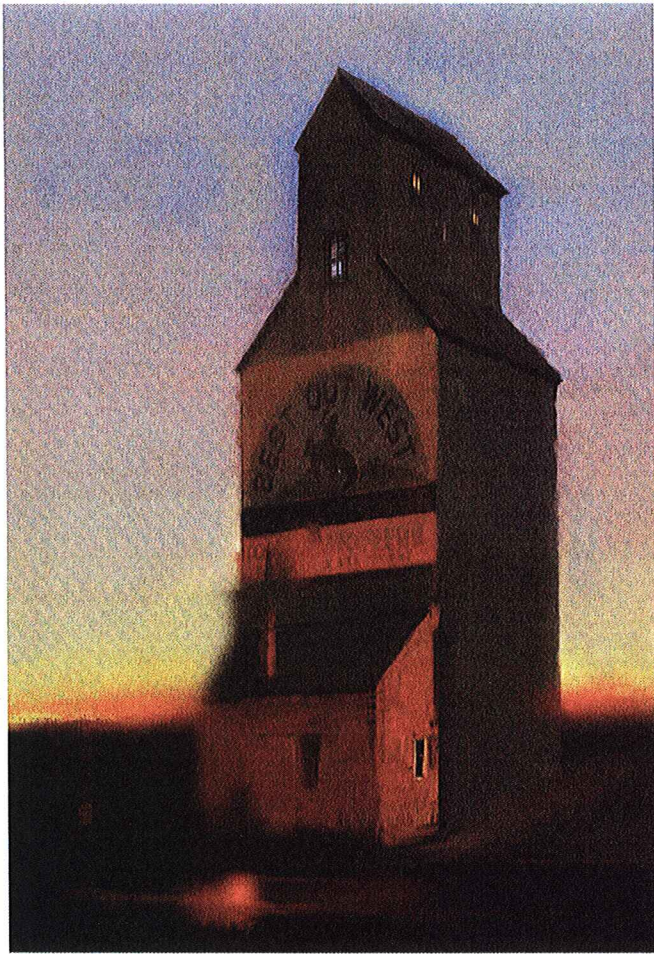
color choices.

Noted for his tepee renditions, about five years ago Gilleon began painting individual Indians with wings. Buyers' response to these subjects surprised him.

"I thought no one would buy them but they've all sold," he says. "When I get into a design mode, that's what keeps coming back to me. I have no idea why. I'm still trying to understand why."

A longtime Montana resident, Gilleon's

versatility as an artist appeals to a variety of collectors, including Patrick Hemingway, son of the late novelist Ernest Hemingway, who owns three originals. While Gilleon was under contract with Disney's Imagineering doing concept illustrations, he painted as a sideline, but he never thought of it as a viable career option. Six years ago that changed when two different galleries approached him.



Best Out West, oil on canvas, 48 x 36"



Black Feet, oil on canvas, 48 x 36"

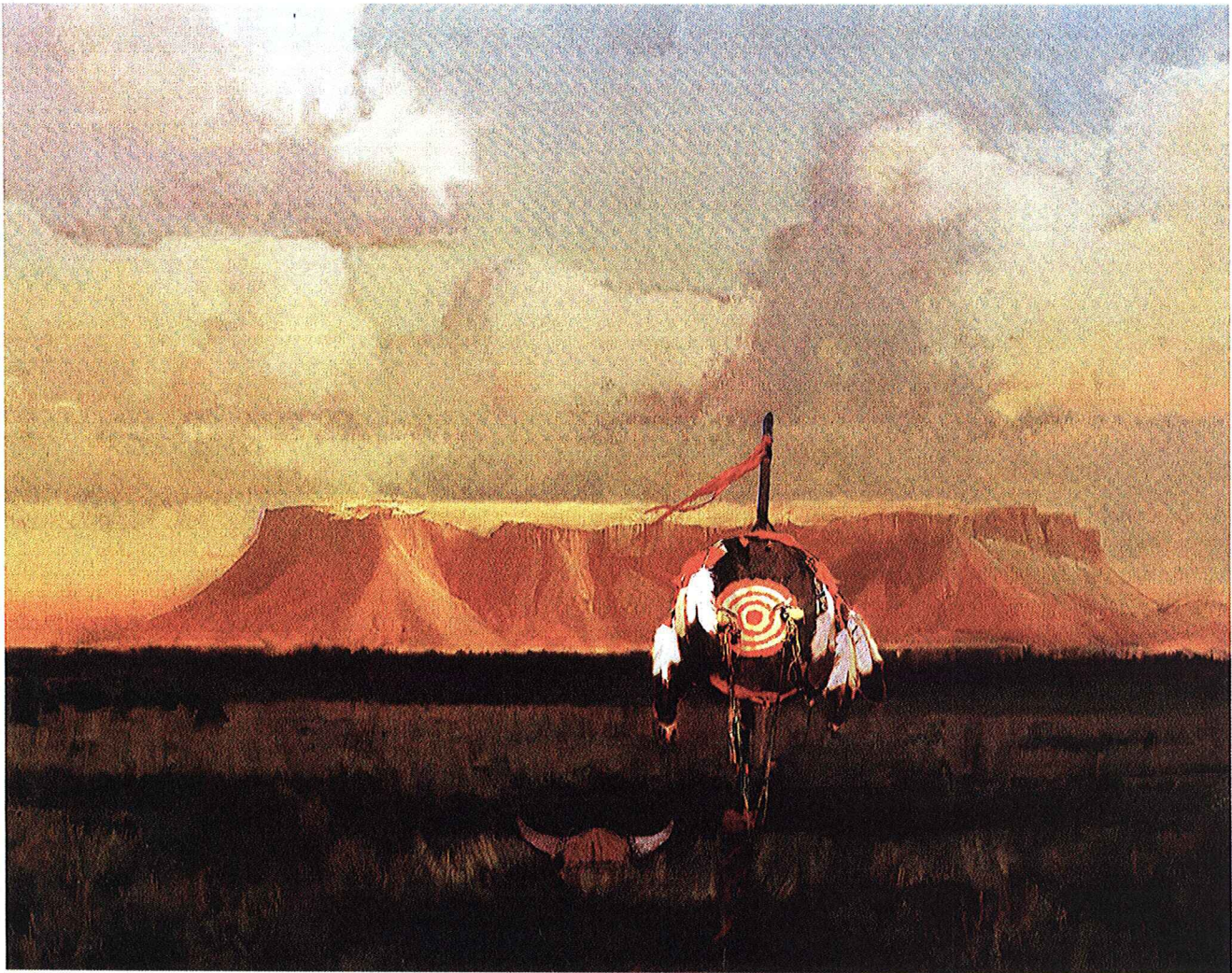
The Gallery Says . . .

"R. Tom Gilleon is a master of composition and color. His artwork has revitalized the epic West of the American imagination. This is Western contemporary at its finest."

*—Mark D. Tarrant, director,
Mountain Trails Gallery*



Gilleon and his three horses—Tana, Cricket and Silver—bask in the serenity of their 2,000-acre ranch located outside of Cascade, Montana.



Northern Plains Stop Sign, oil on canvas, 60 x 72"



Gilieon works at his easel in his Montana studio.

"In less than a year I made more in gallery sales than at Disney," he recalls.

Since then his painting career has skyrocketed, as reflected in the price of his paintings, and he's never looked back.

"I wouldn't trade this life with anybody," he says. "I just want collectors to enjoy it." 🖱️

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to



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
1996	\$700	\$2,500	N/A
2001	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$45,000
2008	\$3,000	\$10,000	\$60,000