

## For the Love of Horses – The Art of Shannon Lawlor



photo by Megan Larson

“I guess I would rather be horseback,” Shannon Lawlor says. “I’ve just never known life without them. In fact growing up, everyone around me I cared about seemed to love horses so naturally I felt the same. After all these years, it seems to have intensified.” That could be part of the reason this young Canadian artist’s work is so breathtaking and sought after. Her work is a study in detail.

Working mostly in acrylic, Shannon’s work cries out for closer scrutiny as she creates a broad palette of color and texture. Her love of her subject, the horses of the charro and vaquero cultures– bridle horses –are evident as they are revisited themes. Her life away from her easel is filled with horses as well. Before committing herself full time to her art, she started colts for the public as well as bred and trained horses for herself. Through it all

she was drawn to the world of the vaquero.

“In Alberta, the influence of the Californio and the vaquero bridle horse tradition is very strong. I love the elegance and character these horses present,” she says, and then, smiling from under her hat brim allows, “I can’t get enough of it.”

Her fans and collectors are glad about that as Shannon’s work is commanding serious interest around the horse world and beyond. “I am constantly learning – both from horses and from other artists,” she explains. She credits artist David Kitler, her mentor, as well as countless horses, horsemen and women and gear makers for her inspiration. “The bridle horse culture is experiencing increased interest and I want to do everything I can to celebrate that in my work and help it grow - especially for the horses.”

To see more of Shannon Lawlor’s work, please visit [www.shannonlawlor.com](http://www.shannonlawlor.com)



Photo by Open Range Digital

They’re Over The Sage

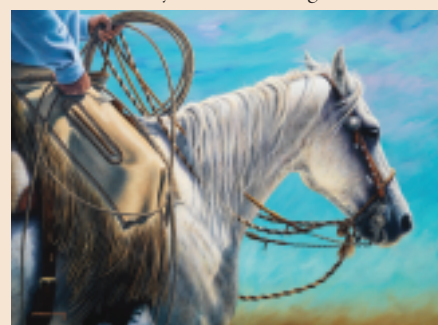


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Wind In My Reins



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Bits of Knowledge



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Cholo