



PAYING IT FORWARD

INSPIRING WESTERN ARTISTS TO NEW HEIGHTS



ART OF THE COWGIRL

A CELEBRATION OF HORSEMANSHIP AND WESTERN ART
artofthecowgirl.com

ART OF THE COWGIRL IS A DREAM COME TRUE.

Women have played a significant role in ranching and the western way of life. Most of today's successful ranchers and western artisans have wonderful stories to tell about a wife, mother or grandmother who influenced their lives.

Art of the Cowgirl is designed to spotlight these wonderful women, while sharing the stories of their families, marriages and partnerships that, in turn, shaped them.

Your participation and support will ensure our great artistic and cultural traditions continue, and help women celebrate, gather and connect around horses and western art. The event will feature female makers, master artists, silversmiths, braiders, saddle makers and horsewomen.

More importantly, Art of the Cowgirl also provides fellowships to individuals to further their knowledge with master artists in the trade of choice. The contributions of these cowgirl makers are truly worth celebrating, and we look forward to sharing them with you.

With Cowgirl Spirit at Heart,

Tammy Pate



“Your participation and support will ensure our great artistic and cultural traditions continue, and help women celebrate, gather and connect around horses and western art.”

– TAMMY PATE, founder, *Art of the Cowgirl*





OUR MISSION

Art of the Cowgirl's mission is twofold:

Celebrate accomplished artisans and horsewomen through its event and other year-round media platforms, and to provide funding through its fellowship for emerging artists in the development of their crafts and businesses through the Fellowship Program.

“Art of the Cowgirl is special because we have women from all walks of life together with the focus on the horse. There's so many disciplines and people, but they're all still tied together with the horse.”

– NANCY MARTINY, 2021 & 2024 Master Saddlemaker

The Art of the Cowgirl event is a gathering to celebrate cowgirls and their contributions to the western lifestyle and culture through workshops, horsemanship clinics, an all women's ranch rodeo, music, art auction, and an all women's horse sale.

The Fellowship Program supports emerging artists and expands their knowledge and skills through fellowships and mentoring by Master Artists in their respective fields.



THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Art of the Cowgirl's Fellowship Program encourages and furthers western art and trade among women artisans, both continuing tradition and inspiring innovation.

By establishing mentorship and investing in up-and-coming artists, Art of the Cowgirl fosters creativity and preserves traditional art and functional gear. In providing these experiences, our hope is that age, location or lack of funds will no longer be a limiting factor for those interested in pursuing art and artistic trades.

Whether it's fine art, functional trade or horsemanship, Art of the Cowgirl Fellowships seek to enrich, empower and educate — all while honoring western heritage.

Art of the Cowgirl will fully fund up to seven fellowships each year, with all expenses paid for the Master Artist and Fellowship Recipient. Master Artists offer up to two weeks of teaching at their various locations, and Fellowship Recipients commit to invest their time in the experience.

Fellowship Recipients also receive funding to travel to the annual Art of the Cowgirl event, where they will present their work and donate an item to the Fellowship Auction, which supports the next class of aspiring artists.

Applying for the program is a competitive process, and it's grown in popularity each year. In spring 2020, more than 300 artists applied for the fellowships.

2024 MASTER ARTISTS

Nancy Martiny - Master Saddle Maker

Teresa Black - Master Rawhide Braider

Barbra Schulte - Master Horsewoman

Shawn Cameron - Master Fine Artist

Terry Forst - Master Rancher

Nevada Miller - Master Silversmith







THE DETAILS

MASTERS AND RECIPIENTS

- Master Artists will receive: teaching fee, materials and supplies, travel, housing and daily rate to the Art of the Cowgirl event for demonstrations and expenses.
- Fellowship Recipients will receive: materials and supplies, travel, room and board at Master's location, travel expenses to the Art of the Cowgirl event for presentation.
- Each Fellowship Recipient will have a completed piece of work or agreed upon task at conclusion of the fellowship.
- Art of the Cowgirl will provide continued resources and opportunities for Fellowship Recipients to assist them in building their business after their fellowship is complete.

“For someone not sure about applying, just do it. It's been one of the greatest experiences I've ever done.”

– TONI KAY TOLLE, 2019 Saddlemaking Fellowship Recipient

To QUALIFY

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Must be a woman, 18 years old or older.
- Able to complete the fellowship before December 31 of the calendar year in which the award is provided.
- Able to attend and present work at following years' Art of the Cowgirl event.
- Meet minimum skill and experience requirements, as determined by the Master Artists.
- Must complete and submit: Art of the Cowgirl Fellowship Application, pictures or videos of recent work and skill requirements, signed releases, and proof of health insurance.
- While individuals may apply for fellowships more than once, selected recipients may not be awarded a fellowship more than once in the same category.

MASTER ARTISTS

- Superior skill and experience in specified area.
- Industry recognition of excellence/notable works.
- Sales/significant contributions to respective industry.
- Willingness to teach and participate in fellowship process and programming.
- Must submit proposal to Art of the Cowgirl with agenda, overall program goal, proposed costs, minimum requirements and examples of work.

“When you collaborate with someone else, it allows you to climb that next ladder. Teaching also allows you to learn and do, and be someone you didn’t know you could be.”

– AMY RAYMOND, 2021 Master Silversmith

CONTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES

At Art of the Cowgirl, we deeply value the support and contributions of donors that make our Fellowship Program possible. Here are some ways to get involved and make a difference:

MAKE A DONATION

Your financial contribution directly supports our mission to empower women in the western arts, trades, and horsemanship through education, mentorship, and community. Every donation, no matter the size, helps make a meaningful impact.

BECOME A SPONSOR

Partner with us as a corporate sponsor to align your brand with our values and mission. Sponsorship opportunities range from events we hold to supporting specific programs or initiatives. We offer customizable packages to meet your company's objectives and budget.

DONATE IN- KIND GOODS OR SERVICES

In-kind donations of goods or services are another valuable way to support our mission. Whether it's providing materials for workshops, offering event space, or donating to our auction, your in-kind support is greatly appreciated.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

If you're passionate about our mission and want to get involved hands-on, consider volunteering your time and skills.

To become involved, or for more information, please contact Jaimie Stoltzfus:

jaimie@artofthecowgirl.com | 406-633-3657





“What we’re looking for in a Fellowship Recipient is someone who will bring it full circle to the next generation; someone who values the spirit of what the Fellowship Program is all about.”

– JAIMIE STOLTZFUS, Fellowship Director, *Art of the Cowgirl*





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