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Bright lightning bolts flash through the dark storm-laden skies on Dyanne Strongbow's Lightning Bolt Colt. Strongbow painted white lightning bolts running down the colt's legs. In the 19th century, Plains culture centered around the horse, a sacred animal in Plains cosmology. Warriors sometimes experienced dreams and visions in which horses appeared as Thunder beings, a powerful supernatural being. Warriors also painted lightning bolts on the legs of their war horses to symbolize power and strength. In the final decades of the 19th century warriors recorded their wartime experiences on paper, hide, and muslin and included detailed images of their war horses, complete with lightning bolts on the legs. These drawings were in part a testament to their horses' bravery. Strongbow's dramatic imagery expresses the power of the horse and continues the tradition of paying honor to them. The vivid yellow sun on the horse's neck alludes to welcoming rays of light after a storm. This sculpture was one of 250 included in Santa Fe's Painted Ponies art event in 2001.

The Trail of Painted Ponies, p. 18, p. 88 & p. 96.

