

Summer 2009

14th Release

*Beauty. Inspiration.
Imagination.*

Welcome to The Trail of Painted Ponies, where the inspirational power of the horse is imaginatively expressed by some of the finest artists in the country. What began as a fantastic public art exhibition in Santa Fe, New Mexico has expanded to new ranges with the introduction of a select line of high-quality figurines that honor the spirit of original Painted Ponies. Each Painted Pony is crafted with exquisite attention to detail, and each is a miniature work-of-art in its own right, which is why Painted Ponies figurines have become one of the most beloved collectibles in America.



Thunder Horse

"When my grandson was young, he would become scared whenever there were thunderstorms," says this Florida artist. "To calm him, I told him the Native American story of the Thunder Horse, and how he would descend from the sky to the mountain tops, and how the tramping of his hooves caused thunder, lightning and then the rain that made the crops and grass and trees grow and be happy. After that, whenever he heard thunder he would smile and say, 'Grandma, there's the Thunder Horse.'" I painted this Pony for him."

Artist: **Barbara Brown**
#12298

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Dream Horse

"When I was a child I read every horse book I could find," writes this multi-talented artist from the Pacific Northwest. "My imagination soared with visions of magnificent steeds, each one faster, stronger, and more beautiful than the last. This Pony depicts today's children, who still read the same wonderful stories." Recently, The Trail of Painted Ponies held a short story contest, inviting collectors to compose a tribute to the Pony that most inspired them. The winner was so moved by "Dream Horse" that she wrote, "Even today, you can still find me lying in the grass reading horse stories and dreaming of horses galloping through my pasture."

Artist: **Janee Hughes**
#12299

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Spirit of the Seasons

This tribal pony honors authentic Native American arts and heritage: Artist Caroline Carpio is a Pueblo Native and an award-winning potter who adds unique twists to the shapes and designs of her pottery. Wanting to honor the horse for its ability to live in harmony with nature, she adorned her Pony with embossed designs that symbolize the natural forces a horse endures during the four seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Artfully accompanied by a traditional Native American pot decorated with a Kiva step pattern, this elegant Painted Pony captures the magic of the original Masterwork, which was one of the Heard Museum Guild 50Th Anniversary Painted Ponies benefiting the American Indian Student Art Endowment.
Artist: **Caroline Carpio**
#12300

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Keeper of the Sacred Fire

This tribal pony honors authentic Native American arts and heritage: The Potawatomi Indians were a peaceful tribe known as the "Fire Nation" because, before the arrival of Europeans, they maintained the Council Fire once shared by other tribes living on the shores of the Great Lakes. Relying on canoes, they fished, gathered rice, hunted deer and were known for their elaborate flower and scroll designs on mat and basket weavings. Their history took a tragic turn with their forced relocation to the Indian Territories in Kansas and Oklahoma in 1838. "Keeper of the Sacred Fire" is a powerful and moving tribute to the enduring spirit of the Potawatomi created by an artist who grew up along what came to be known as one of the Trail of Tears.
Artist: **Cheryl A. Harris**
#12301

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Crow Fair Pony

*T*his tribal pony honors authentic Native American arts and heritage: Every August since 1904, Crow Agency, Montana has held a fair designed to celebrate and preserve early Crow culture and customs. A summer destination for Native Americans from all over North America, it features a parade, rodeo, relay races, Native dancing, colorful exhibitions of bead work, and contests. American flags fly high above the teepee poles in honor of Crow Soldiers who served in the American military. For over 100 years this artist's family has lived as ranchers on the Crow Reservation, giving authority and authenticity to her artistic tribute to the Crow Fair. Artist: [Sonja Caywood](#)
#12302

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Zuni Silver Pony

*T*his tribal pony honors authentic Native American arts and heritage: The Zuni Tribe of New Mexico is known for their elaborate jewelry and superb silverwork, inlaid with hand-carved precious and semi-precious stones (turquoise, jet, coral and Mother of Pearl) that represent animals and spirits and are said to have mystical significance. Working with designs found on old Zuni silver jewelry, this artist incorporated images of Rainbow Man – the Zuni symbol of the supreme Kachina spirit of harmony and healing – the Thunderbird and a Dragonfly, onto a Pony, endowing it with the power to master the unpredictable forces normally beyond our control.

Artist: [Lynn Bean](#)
#12303

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Twilight Fairy Pony

For as long as stories have been told, fairies have captured the imagination of people fascinated by these whimsical creatures. Often depicted as beautiful, young, sometimes winged, women of small stature who are as delightful as they are mysterious (and who usually appear at twilight), fairies have the power to magically assume different animal forms. This incredible ability has inspired many creative and artistic interpretations. In the hands of this talented California artist, we discover this entrancing "Fairy Pony."

Artist: **Kathy Post**
#12304

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Native Essence

Native Americans are masters at the use of color to convey spiritual significance. Vibrant colors bring traditional designs, symbols and costumes alive with special meaning. North, for example, is designated as yellow because the evening in winter is yellow. West is blue for the Pacific Ocean. South, the region of summer, is red, while East is white to signify the dawn. An artist who has developed a national reputation for her unique use of electrically charged colors, Maria has combined her distinctive palette with the imagery of "fetish bears" - believed to represent strength, courage and good luck - in a design that embodies the essence of Native Art.

Artist: **Maria Ryan**
#12305