

Winter 2009

13th 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.



Night Flower

Peonies bloom profusely in early June when the soft summer sky is dark and alive with stars and a new moon. Their huge pale flowers, nestled in deep-green leaves, glow with spectacular beauty at that time. With "Night Flower," Marianne Hornbuckle, whose love of gardening led her to paint large and luminous flowers, has created a Painted Pony that becomes one with the peonies as she wanders through the magic of a summer garden at night.

Artist: **Marianne Hornbuckle**
#12289

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Petroglyph Pony

The original bunkhouse was a rough, simple building, often fashioned from the wood boards torn off old barns that provided sleeping quarters for ranch hands. Horse tack, wagon wheels and cow skulls were frequently tacked to weathered planks on the outside, while western hats and ropes hung on the inside walls. Adding cozy ambience, the whole place would smell of coffee brewing in an enamel pot on a wood burning stove. Working these classic, cowboy touches into a fabulous Painted Pony design, this gifted Oregon artist has created an old-timey yet timeless tribute to our Western heritage.

Artist: **Lynn Bean**
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Zorse: Hiding in Plain Sight

Zoologists tell us that the black-and-white stripes on a zebra were designed by evolution to confuse lions in the wild, making them all but invisible because they are indistinguishable from grass and brush – until they move. Bringing a lighthearted sense of play to this concept, this mixed-media artist from Santa Fe, New Mexico has created a hybrid creature – a zebra/horse cross whose DNA creates a coat that retains the stripes of a zebra, while at the same time exhibiting the complete color spectrum visible to humans, the most fearsome predator on the planet.

Artist: [Patrisha Renk-Mayer](#)
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Golden Feather Pony

Much of the appeal of Painted Ponies is the way they invite artists to let their imaginations run wild. With this Pony, Lynn Bean, an all-star Painted Pony artist, decided to take an artistic detour. She began by gold-leafing her entire Pony. Then, using rich and colorful porcelain paints, she added splashy abstract designs. Finally, where a saddle usually sits, she outfitted her Pony with large, jeweled feathers. In the end, she invented a magical creature that is out of this world.

Artist: [Lynn Bean](#)
#12292

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Wovoka's Vision

*I*t began with a solar eclipse on January 1, 1889: A Paiute medicine man named Wovoka had a vision that turned into a movement known as the Ghost Dance. Wovoka's dream centered on a ceremony he believed would reunite the living with the loved ones in the ghost world, replenish the buffalo, and ultimately restore the world to its original beauty. In his memory, and as a tribute to this important chapter in American Indian history, Devon Archer, a Virginia artist, has created a Painted Pony inspired by the colors and symbols that can be found on the traditional Ghost Dance shirts and dresses.

Artist: **Devon Archer**
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Tribal Paint

*W*arriors from tribes across the Plains often wore feathers that were marked and painted in ways that told of their accomplishments in battle. In this fashion they would sometimes intimidate opponents who would be scared off after "reading" the stories related on the feathers. But sometimes they would also become the target of warriors who sought encounters with powerful opponents as a way of gaining personal power. With "Tribal Paint", Iowa artist Vickie Knepper, creator of the heartbreaking collectible "Wounded Knee," continues to use Painted Ponies to relate interesting and little-known stories about Plains Indian life. Artist: **Vickie Knepper**
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Earth Angels

Butterflies are like little angels with colorful wings, symbolizing change and growth... the transformation from one life form to another more beautiful. With this Painted Pony, Maria Ryan, a wildlife colorist, has created a gift to everyone who feels life has been a journey for them that has brought them to a place of emergence to be shared with others. "My hope is that 'Earth Angels' encourages people to make conscious changes to their lives for the better, to create new conditions in which they can flourish, and make their dreams come true."

Artist: **Maria Ryan**
#12295

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Carved in History

It's a Western tradition for American cowboys to ride saddles that are decorated with elegant, delicately carved floral and geometric patterns, and in some cases embroidered with gold and silver ornaments. With this in mind, Virginia artist and craftsman Chad Brady, whose uncle has been a cobbler for over 30 years making fancy chaps for rodeo cowboys, keeps the spirit alive with a Painted Pony he has beautifully tooled with floral, oak leaf and acorn patterns.

Artist: **Chad Brady**
#12296