Artist Statement:

My horse nimbly dodged a steep incline by leaping sideways over some sagebrush and a sun bleached skull, keeping us in position to move the runaway back to the herd. She was a sleek and muscled palomino with the Double Circle brand on her left flank and she was always a thought ahead of any of the cattle. She gave me hell for trying to outthink her and at times dumped me hard, then stood over me and patiently rocked while I sorted myself out and remounted.

"Jaime, take it easy on that old girl. She's gonna buck you off if you ride her that hard" the camp cook hollered. I stuck out my tongue in her general direction, stood up in my stirrups, kicked my mare into a gallop and before I could get a word out of my sassy mouth I was laying hard on the prairie.

"Oh, get up cowgirl and get back on that horse" said my Grannie. "I'll go get a band-aid for your scrape."

"Do we have any of the Mister Ed ones left?" I whimpered as I lay underneath the starlit western skies, my mare quietly standing above me, her lovely liquid brown, plastic eyes looking off into the distance, never blinking, never holding a grudge as the springs tethering her gently squeaked…

My career as a cowhand never got off the ground and I stumbled into art never knowing it would compliment my passion for animals so completely. Real dogs, painted dogs, the red ball, horses and life on an island in the Pacific Northwest. I suspect it will be years before I run out of inspiration or have jeans that aren't covered with paw prints or paint.

My paintings are built of many thin layers of oil bar and/or oil paint beginning with a limited palette of bold colors on large canvases or wood panels. Subsequent layers allow the under-paint to peek through and transparent glazes give the final surface a subtle tint. I enjoy working with new mediums and am always exploring new subjects, layering and surface finishes.

With each work, I invite the viewer to first look at the simplicity of the image, then beyond, opening a door to the imagination.