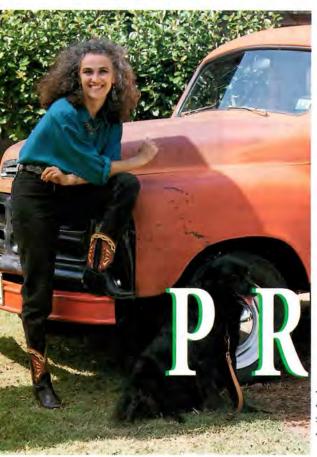


THE PREMIER MAGAZINE OF THE WEST



Cowboy Hats ‡ Rodeo Roots ‡ Navajo Blankets ‡ Jack Elam

OUR LADY AT THE FENCE, MIXED MEDIA ON PAPER, 60X40 INCHES, ©1992. AT RIGHT, DANCE ROMANCE, OIL ON CANVAS, 60X60 INCHES, @1987.



LASSOING the Cowgirl Spirit

where are the cowgirls? really fascinated me." They're running free with

horses and dogs, laughing with cowhands, and dancing with jet black crows. At least that's how painter Donna How-

Raised in a small town just outside of Gainsville, Texas, Donna is very familiar with images of

ell-Sickles sees them.

the West. And, like the cowgirls she wildly atypical for their time." paints, she exudes a life-affirming vivaciousness, especially when she the years and now have a mythic, talks about her art. She found inspira- Western goddess quality, one that is tion for her exuberant cowgirls from strong and joyous. "My cowgirl figan unexpected source—a '40s-era ure has far surpassed her original hand-tinted postcard. A woman meaning as just a Western figure," dressed in cowgirl gear was posed on she says. "She is less surface. I think the back of a big sorrel horse. Written she fulfills a different meaning for across the postcard was this: "Greetings from a real cowgirl from the ol' just enthralled with that idea!" Southwest."

"This was a wonderful image in throughout the West. that the colors were printed over the black and white processing," explains

hink of Western paintings and Donna. "And her bright red lips images of rugged, determined were printed just slightly off-center. cowboys come to mind. But That quality of the real and unreal

That postcard eventually led

Donna on a search for the American cowgirl. She found her in the Wild West shows and rodeos of the '20s and '30s. "I kind of got acquainted by name with all of these old rodeo women," she says. "Wonderfully,

Donna's figures have grown over everybody who views her and I'm

Donna is represented by galleries

