

Vel Miller

Guest artist sponsored by
Gallery Michael Gibbons

Art Walk 17

September 4, 5, & 6, 2010
10:00 am—5:00 pm daily

Justice of the Peace Studio

Legacy Arts Terrace

177 NE 1st Street
Toledo, Oregon 97391
(541)336-2797

*Join Vel in the Vicarage Garden at 1:00 pm
each day for “Art Talk”*



“After the Rain”
oil on linen 24” x 36”
by Vel Miller

About the artist:

Vel Miller is an internationally renowned western artist whose paintings and bronze sculptures have been featured in the book Contemporary Western Artists and several editions of *Southwest Art* and *Art of the West* magazines. She is currently listed in Who's Who in American Art, Who's Who in the West, Who's Who of American Women, and An Encyclopedia of Women Artists of the American West. Participating in numerous exhibitions, both in the U.S. and in Europe, Vel has earned over 40 “Firsts,” “Best of Show,” and “Purchase Awards.” In the fall of 2000, Vel was commissioned to do a heroic size monument for the City of Paso Robles, California. The 8-foot high sculpture of a fireman handing a baby to a policewoman, titled “Reward for Valor” was dedicated in 2004.



Vel attended the Art League of Los Angeles, studying under Hal Reed and Max Turner. She later taught there. An important mentor, Joe DeYong, a protégé of Charlie Russell, encouraged and inspired her with his stories and love of the Old West. In painting and sculpting, Vel concentrates on a more personal view of the West, portraying the personality and character of all she creates.

Of her inspiration, she says, “The most rugged and strongest people I’ve known have also been the kindest and most loving. This is the feeling I try to portray. I want the person who views my work to see something they have experienced themselves, or to feel a mood that brings them happiness.”

“The West lives on, not just in the heart of the cowboy roping a calf or an Indian chasing a buffalo. It lives in all of us. It’s the hardships and the rewards. I see it in a child with his or her animals or a mother or father with their children. It’s the wonder of the latest crop of calves or colts, or just the evening light shining across a meadow. I hear it in the creak of a new saddle and the knicker of a mare to her foal, or perhaps the crow of a rooster announcing a new and sparkling day.”

“It is true that some of the images are gone and some live only in the artwork created before us, but there is still a story to tell and a world full of subjects to portray. This is what all Western artists, whether craftsmen, painters, sculptors, singers, or storytellers, are trying to present: the love we feel for the West. We hope you share it with us. If you do, the West and the Spirit of the West will live forever.”

Vel and her husband, Warren, currently own a Central Coast ranch where they raise Texas Longhorn Cattle and American Quarter Horses. Their home is a trove of treasures sitting atop a rolling Central California hill that meanders down to the Pacific some twenty miles away. The house, like the artist, is filled with memories of the most important things in life – treasured mementos of family, friends and mentors who have enriched her life. Paintings cover the walls and sculptures sit atop antique tables draped with cowhide. Your eye can’t travel an inch but it encounters an artifact of the Old West – the things of which Vel’s life is made.

For more information about Vel, please visit www.velmiller.com