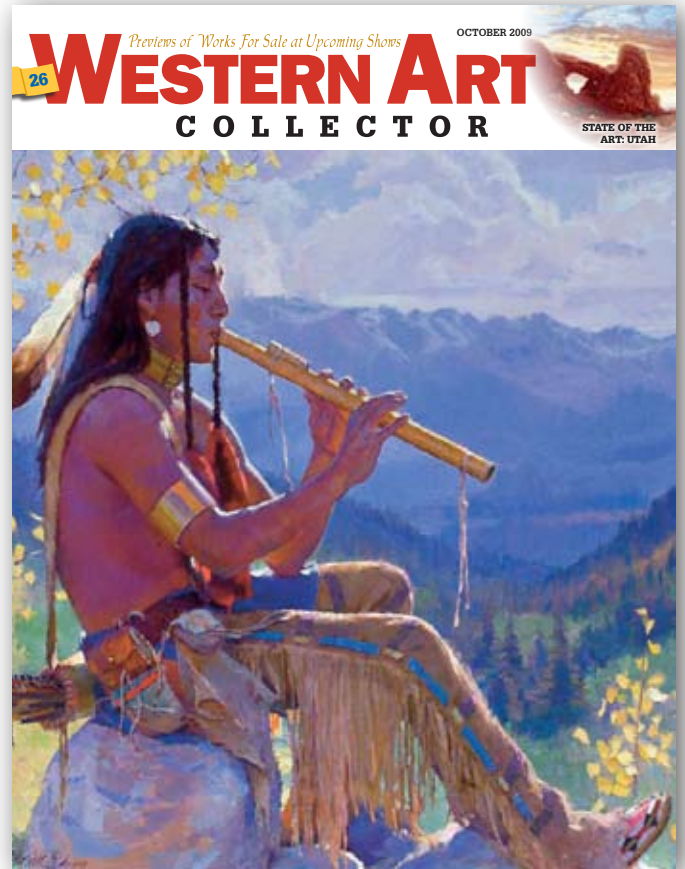


As seen in the  
October 2009 issue of

**WESTERN ART**  
COLLECTOR



#### UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 60 works on show  
October 1-15, 2009

Hodges Fine Art  
122 McLeod Street  
Big Timber, MT 59011  
(406) 932-6834

SHOW LOCATION BIG TIMBER, MT

## DAVE HODGES

### *Montana perspective*

Located in Montana's Sweet Grass County, Big Timber sits in the state's southern region with an elevation of 4,089 feet. From his driveway, artist Dave Hodges enjoys a bird's-eye view of Yellowstone River, which offers some of the best fishing, camping, and outdoor recreational opportunities in the state.

Such breathtaking scenery finds its way into Hodges' latest landscape paintings, which begin as plein air studies and later become transformed into larger works back at the studio.

Hodges began his art career as an oil painter, and in 1982 he became a full-time sculptor. His work is found in galleries throughout the United States,

specifically Hodges Fine Art in Big Timber, Montana, which will mount 60 of his latest paintings and sculpture beginning October 1.

Hodges and his wife Carmen have raised Texas longhorns for 30 years, many which have unwittingly become models for his artwork. His new painting titled *Early Morning Move* and the



*Trail Blazer*, bronze, ed. of 15, 30 x 21"



**King of the Hill**, bronze, ed. of 24, 19 x 12"



**Down Hill From Here**, bronze, ed. of 15, 27 x 21"

*The Collector Says . . .*

*"I first became acquainted with Dave Hodges and his sculptures in the 1980s, loved his work, and subsequently had him create two sculptures for Cargill Company to distribute to friends and clients worldwide."*

*—Whitney MacMillan,  
former CEO and chairman of  
the board of Cargill Company*

sculpture *Down Hill From Here* both depict this sturdy breed of cattle. Because of Hodges' personal experience with these steer, he knows their traits, personalities and physical characteristics, which he defines in each original creation.

"I saw a friend rope a steer running down a hill in north Idaho. I actually saw him do this and that's where the idea came from. I wanted to create an exciting sculpture," says Hodges.

The artist opts for a more contemplative and harmonious piece in the recently cast bronze titled *Trail Blazer* in which he depicts a packer surveying his route while the packhorse scratches his head.

"Anyone who has ever packed has seen this," says Hodges. "I'm trying to conjure up memories of other viewers."

Hodges skills as a hunter, fisherman, trapper and hunting guide add authenticity to his work. The new bronze titled *King of the Hill* shows two bighorn rams fighting and is based off past employment as a guide.

"I came up with the exact composition through my experience," he says.

These latest pieces represent Hodges' ongoing evolution and refinement of his distinct style, which he has developed over the past 27 years based on his personality and experiences.

"My sculptures all start from my own personal experiences and memories and they're subjects that excite me to the point of wanting to share those feelings with others," he says.

Hodges hopes collectors notice his skill in handling surface textures, which is somewhat loose with an illusion of detail.

"I like to keep things strong and simple and create a sensation of movement and direction through design," says Hodges. "I've always tried to use strong composition as a foundation, using lines, positive and negative shapes, light and shadows and other design elements. I spend a lot of time preplanning each piece, modifying thumbnail sketches and small clay models for sometimes up to a year. Once I start the actual sculpture there's no guesswork left. I never use a patina or fancy paint job to compensate for a weak design."

Over the years Hodges has participated in several exhibitions and shows, and his work has garnered several awards.



**Mountain Music**, bronze, ed. of 30, 17 x 14"



Montana artist Dave Hodges has been sculpting full time since 1982.



**Early Morning Move**, oil on linen, 15 x 30"



**First Spring Arrivals**, oil on linen, 12 x 20"

In addition to his oil painting of landscapes of the Western region, Hodges has several portraits and large bronze sculptures to his credit. Among his most accomplished pieces is a life-size bust of international opera singer Marilyn Horne, which graces the Blaisdell Hall at the Bradford branch of the University of Pittsburgh. A copy of his sculpture

*Fancy Footwork*, owned by former President Ronald Reagan, is on permanent display at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. 🖱

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to



[www.westernartcollector.com](http://www.westernartcollector.com)

### Price Range Indicator

*Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.*

	Small	Medium	Large
1999	\$125	\$475	\$7,000
2004	\$135	\$525	\$8,500
2009	\$250	\$650	\$9,500