

Haley Ledet

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Artist's Statement

My current body of work in printmaking and drawing is primarily a study of animal anatomy using dynamic poses and pentimento. The work "Gentlemen in the Prairie" the first print of this series, focuses upon three bulls. Their poses are based on images of bull riding, of great energy and strain, yet the finished piece, is tranquil and majestic. My goal was to portray the animal in an idyllic light, to showcase their true beauty and power. To me, animals represent the best of us, they are a gift, and they must be protected. In this series of drawings and prints, I use the animals' muscular structure to show fluid movement, and the imagery becomes something more than anatomical studies. In this print, the composition itself undulates like a muscle contracting. I prefer to work with graphite and charcoal, yet I find the concept translates well into printmaking. Since I used drypoint techniques, I focused on line quality and conveying value through hatched marks and line weight. Artists I greatly admire include Egon Schiele and Paula Rego. Both of these artists convey figures in a grotesque, contorted and distorted manner, where the muscles and curves of the body create a rhythm.