

Martin Grelle

Martin Grelle (b.1954-)

Martin Grelle captures the essence of the Old West in paintings that are historically accurate and beautifully picturesque. His art is compelling, yet peaceful. This quiet subtlety and attention to detail have made Martin Grelle one of the finest and most recognized western artists today. Grelle still lives in his hometown of Clifton, a small country town nestled in the gently rolling hills of central Texas.

He and wife, Kim, have two sons, Joshua and Jordan. The beauty and anonymity of the area has provided inspiration and solace for the quiet man. It was here, after being mentored by Western artist, Jim Boren, that Grelle discovered he had a gift for painting. Now Grelle is helping to organize professional-level art workshops within the community.

His passion for the Old West is evident in the striking landscapes he portrays. Working in oil Grelle achieves a rare depth of emotion with each painting and has a loose, painterly style. He wants viewers to feel a connection to his art that is warm and inviting. “I want to leave people with a feeling of experiencing something nice, something peaceful, something that’s soothing to their souls.” Popular works are “period paintings,” set during a particular time in history. Grelle creates a visual story, focusing on the authenticity and historical accuracy of the people and the era.

Also renowned for his paintings of the contemporary West, Grelle’s art reflects his admiration and respect for the cowboys of today. Horses usually appear in Grelle’s art. He owns three American Quarter Horses and a dog named Heidi, and frequently uses them as models. “I love painting horses. They are beautiful, poetic animals. There’s a lot of romanticism in horses, too, because of the part they’ve played in our country’s history.”

#31 Lufkin City Hall-“Reminiscent”-Oil painting on canvas. Seated cowman with his saddle. Grass in foreground. Barn door background.