

TOUGH BY NATURE

Portraits of Cowgirls and Ranch Women
of the American West by Lynda Lanker



National Cowgirl Museum
and Hall of Fame



Family Gallery Guide

Lynda Lanker has always had a love for the West. Gifted at experimenting in all kinds of art mediums, she makes her portraits of cowgirls seem personal and magnificent at the same time.

Cowgirls and ranch women have often been portrayed as iconic, static characters, rather than as individuals. Lanker instead starts with her subjects' personal characteristics and familiar surroundings to create living legacies.

Working from photographs and drawings created from live models, she selected each material, composition, and size to best capture the likeness and personality of its original, often experimenting in more than one medium to capture each cowgirl. A large charcoal drawing can convey freedom of movement and spontaneity or bring to life the connection between mother and child. An oil pastel can capture the dignity of its sitter. Portraits painted with egg tempera can seem to show an inner light.

Lanker's ability to use so many types of media—oil, acrylic, egg tempera, charcoal, and pencil, as well as stone and plate lithography—is impressive in itself. Finding the correct medium to make these hardworking women shine is inspirational.



Portrait of Lynda Lanker by Brian Lanker

What exactly are some of those mediums?



Lithograph of Hall of Fame Honoree
Mollie Stephenson, Jr.

A **lithograph** is a print made with a reverse printing process. The artist draws a design on either a metal plate, a glass plate, or a smooth, shiny stone with an oil or grease writing utensil. Ink is then applied to the surface and sticks to the oil-drawn lines. The remainder of the ink is washed from the plate surface and the print is made when paper is pressed on it and catches only the lines drawn.

Egg Tempera is a painting process that uses egg yolk to bond the paint pigments (colors) together. The artist mixes the paint by combining finely ground paint pigment, water, and diluted egg yolk.

Graphite writing tools are specifically designed for sketching. They are made with graphite, a form of carbon, and mixed with clay. The more clay, the harder the pencil. The pencils are then divided into categories based on hardness.

Typically, art pieces created using **charcoal** are made using compressed charcoal, which is charcoal powder mixed with a raw gum substance. The two ingredients are compressed into round or square sticks.

... So what do YOU like to draw with?

Who are these Cowgirls?

Some of the Honorees in the National Cowgirl Museum's Hall of Fame are featured in the exhibit **Tough by Nature**. You can find more information about them on the kiosk in front of the gift shop and on our website:

Ruby Gobble – rancher and rodeo rider

Jonnie Jonckowski – bull rider

Gretchen Sammis – rancher

Georgie Sicking – rancher and poet

Mollie Stevenson, Jr. – rancher

Jan Youren – bronc and bull rider

All in the Details!

When you look at art, it's a good idea to step forward and look at the details and then step back to take the whole piece in all at once. Can you find all the details below?



Word Search

Find the answers to the clues below by using the information you have learned touring the **Tough by Nature** exhibit and by reading this guide. Find the answers in the word search. Words can go in any direction and can cross over each other. The answer key is on the last page.

Clues:

1. Graphic pencils are categorized by _____.
2. Making a print by drawing on a hard surface is called a _____.
3. The artist featured in the exhibit is _____.
4. What is the first name of an Honoree who is also a poet? _____.
5. An art medium with eggs that is featured in the exhibit is called _____.
6. Lynda Lanker used what kind of pastels? _____.
7. Lithographs can be made on stone or _____.
8. Jonnie Jonckowski was a _____.
9. The last name of the rancher that was a Jr. is _____.

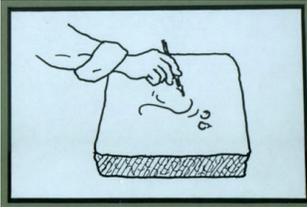
O E I G R O E G R W I J K I
I Y E N F X P E D H H U F O
L A A D C F D D B M C F D E
O M R R Z I H A R D N E S S
I P T E R N O S N E V E T S
X I W L P J H I P I P M O I
R C L Y Q M P I K Y L L U T
K U F W O E E G J Y A N G R
B F I R R D J T N I T F B I
W U G N A E Z A G Z E J C W
L N E Y X P Q P M G S T G P
L I T H O G R A P H E X T T
L Y N D A L A N K E R F C G
X I H E V P N V B N F Z M J

Steps to a Hand-Printed Lithograph



PREPARING THE STONE:

A stone is prepared by “graining” or grinding a smooth surface that will carry the image. A common alternative to the litho stone is a lightweight, single-use, aluminum litho plate, which is drawn and printed in a similar manner.



DRAWING THE PICTURE:

Drawing media, such as litho crayons (grease pencils), are used to create an image on the stone. Liquids can also be used.

ETCHING THE STONE:

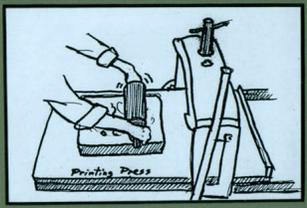
The drawn image is treated chemically to allow it to be printed multiple times.



PRINTING:

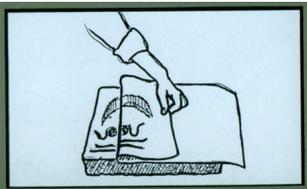
1. Oil-based ink is spread evenly on the hard surface of the stone.

2. An ink roller is rolled back and forth over the ink slab until it is evenly charged with ink.



3. The surface of the stone is dampened to encourage the ink to stick to the image and to resist the wet surface of the stone.

4. The ink is rolled over the stone.



5. Paper is placed on top of the stone, followed by a protective sheet of metal or plastic, and the stone is rolled through the press.

6. The printing process is repeated for each print in a limited edition. The stone is then ground down in preparation for a new image.

Create a print of your own using one of the following methods

For a simple method in making a print, make a “Wax Resist Painting”

Materials: white crayons, white paper, paint, paintbrush

Directions:

- Draw a pattern or scene with the crayons onto a sheet of paper.
- When finished, paint the entire sheet with paint over the crayon drawing. Make sure the paint is not too thin or watery. The crayon should resist the paint.
- When the paint dries, the original invisible drawing will show through.
- NOTE: To create a cracked wax effect, BEFORE you paint, carefully crumple the paper to create lines in the paper. Flatten the picture and then paint.



Lithograph of Hall of Fame Honoree
Gretchen Sammis

For more of a challenge, try a “Candle-Wax Painting”

Materials: wax candle, watercolor paper, watercolors, paintbrush

Directions:

- Draw a pattern or scene with the wax candle onto a sheet of watercolor paper. The drawing will be almost invisible.
- When finished, paint the entire sheet with watercolors.
- When the paint dries, the original invisible drawing will show through.

Be sure to visit our other galleries!

Hitting the Mark: Cowgirls and Wild West Shows Galleries



This gallery displays the historical significance of the cowgirls who performed in the Wild West shows from the 1880s to early 20th century.

- See showcases featuring rare artifacts including Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show parade flag.
- Get your picture taken with Annie Oakley or Buffalo Bill in our photobooth for a souvenir!
- Watch Annie Oakley share her story in her own words through the magic of hologram technology.
- See her wedding ring, hand written letters, and one of the shotguns she used while traveling with the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show.

The newly renovated second floor explores women of the American West who have displayed extraordinary courage and skill in their trailblazing efforts and partnership with the horse.

- See interactive islands that explore champions and competitors, trailblazers, entertainers, and business women.
- Watch the walls change to different ranches across the U.S. and witness a herd of horses run in!
- Test your bronc riding skills on the renovated bronc ride by saddling up! You will be superimposed into real rodeo footage, and you can email or text your clip.

Kit Moncrief Galleries and *It's Never Just a Horse™* Exhibition



Word Search Answer Key

1. Hardness
2. Lithograph
3. Lynda Lanker
4. Georgie
5. Egg Tempera
6. Oil
7. Plates
8. Bullrider
9. Stevenson

