



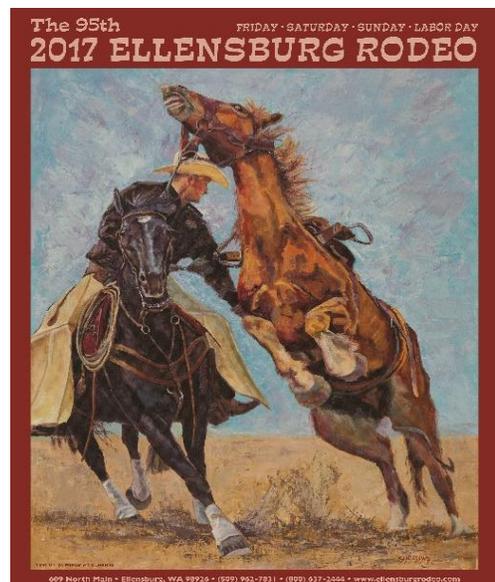
## Ellensburg Rodeo 2017 poster announced

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ellensburg, Wash. (January 14, 2017) —The Ellensburg Rodeo is pleased to announce the selection of the 2017 official poster. Copies of this artwork are now available at the Ellensburg rodeo office. This art will be available for \$10.00 or \$20.00 if signed by the artist.

The art titled 'Fired Up' was originally created in oil paint by the artist, Meagan Abra Blessing at the Blessing fine art studio in Bozeman, Montana.

Meagan states, "This painting is a tribute to the hard - working pickup men at every rodeo. These guys are athletes and professionals, and so are their horses. Their calm, steady presence and ability to react quickly in unpredictable situations keeps all two and four legged competitors safe and the events running smoothly and as on schedule as possible. This image perfectly captures the excitement of the rodeo and the skilled competence with which the pickup man and his horse go about quietly doing their job."



*2017 Ellensburg Rodeo Poster*

Born abroad to an adventure loving family, Meagan Abra Blessing spent her formative years as a competitive figure skater and equestrienne. Summers were spent packing on horseback, living, and working in various western states from Alaska to Colorado. Attending college with majors in Equestrian Studies and Vocal Performance, she spent nearly twenty years teaching music and horsemanship, training and showing horses, raising a family, and performing on occasion. In 2002, she made the transition from performing arts to visual arts and, in the process, found that her

love of the West and her knowledge of the equine form heavily influenced her choice of subject matter.

Ever mindful of the underlying structure and overarching character of her subjects when choosing her compositions, Meagan's years of hands on experience with horses in various capacities have resulted in paintings that are reflective of individual equine temperaments and personalities. The many horses she has had the pleasure of working with have given her insight into the inherent nobility and vulnerability of these animals that have fascinated people for ages. Meagan's love of the wild places of the West coupled with her passion for all things equine is evident in her lively, expressive paintings.

Meagan's renditions of horses are vibrant and dynamic, and her playful utilization of color and light brings a contemporary twist to classic and often quintessentially Western imagery.

Her work has been shown in several national exhibitions, including The Mountain Oyster Club Art Show & Sale, Tucson AZ, Out West Art Show & Sale, Great Falls MT, The Heart of the West, Coeur D'Alene ID, and Traveling the West Art Show & Sale, Dallas TX. Meagan has been featured in various publications, including Western Art & Architecture, Big Sky Journal, Western Art Collector, and Southwest Art. She was recently awarded Fine Art Connoisseur's People's Choice Award at the 2016 Out West Art Show & Sale.

For more information on the artist please visit; <http://www.blessingfineart.com>

The nationally recognized Ellensburg rodeo runs this year from Friday September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 4<sup>th</sup> . For more information about the rodeo and events please visit <http://www.ellensburgrodeo.com>

*Ellensburg media contact:: Jeff Leichter – (509) 607-4721—[Jeff@badgerpocketbrands.com](mailto:Jeff@badgerpocketbrands.com)*