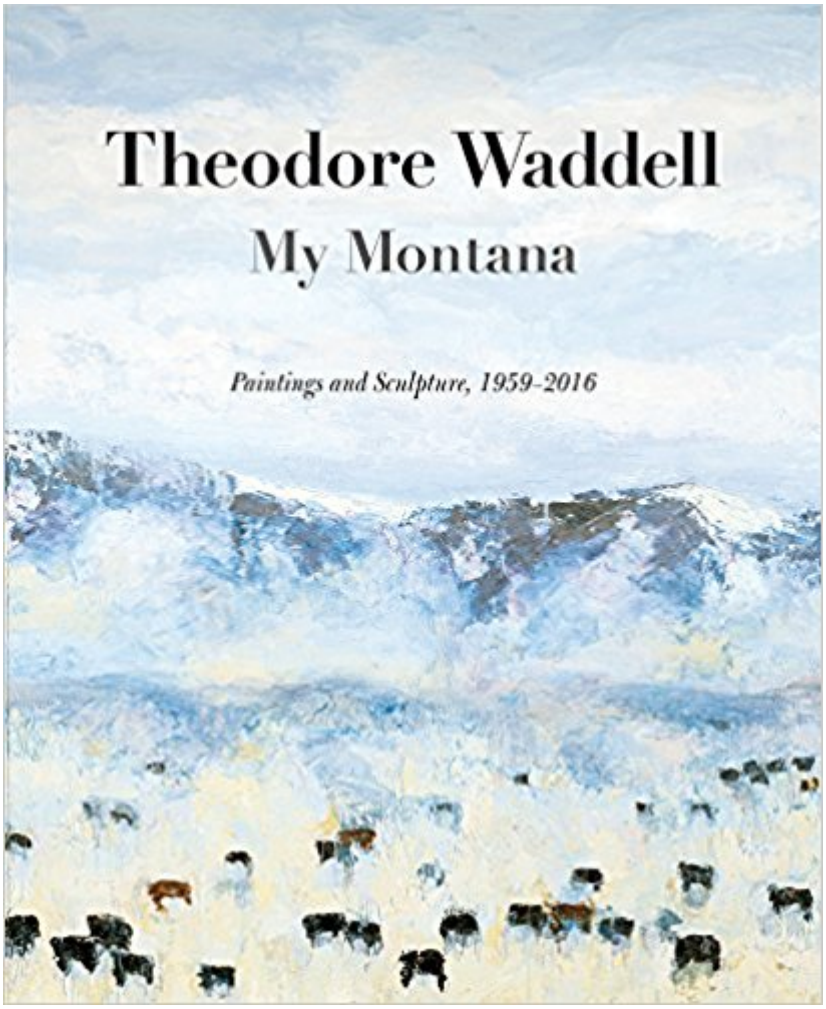
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Theodore Waddell: My MontanaÃ¢â‚¬â€¢Paintings And Sculpture, 1959Ã¢â‚¬â€œ2016



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Synopsis

Born in 1941 in Billings, Montana, painter, sculptor, and rancher Theodore Waddell stands as one of the WestÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most celebrated contemporary artists. His late modern Ã¢â ¬Å“landscapes with animalsÃ¢â ¬Â• couple abstract expressionist technique with creaturesÃ¢â ¬â •Black Angus cattle, horses, and bisonÃ¢â ¬â •that populate the high plains and mountain valleys of todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ranching West.Ã Â Heavily illustrated with the artistÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own work, as well as images from his personal archive, Theodore Waddell: My Montana traces WaddellÃ¢â ¬â„¢s influences, ranging from the Cezannesque works of Montana rancher and teacher Isabelle Johnson to the abstract expressionism of Robert Motherwell, the expressionist figuration of Robert DeNiro Sr., and the classic western paintings of Karl Bodmer, Charles M. Russell, Frederic Remington, Thomas Moran, Joseph Henry Sharp, and Maynard Dixon. Ã Â With access to WaddellÃ¢â ¬â„¢s journals and letters and an extensive oral history recently completed, author Rick Newby offers unprecedented insight into WaddellÃ¢â ¬â„¢s first years as an avowed artist and his period of struggle and disciplined creativity. Newby portrays WaddellÃ¢â ¬â„¢s decades as a practicing rancher and the years of his successÃ¢â ¬â •when his sculptures and vast canvases have found homes in leading museums. Ã Â Ultimately, Theodore WaddellÃ¢â ¬â„¢s works are important, not simply because they bring together disparate traditions but because they stand as emotionally and sensuously resonant works of art that speak of landscapes and animals, life and death, austerity and abundance. They possess, in the words of Seattle Times critic Robin Updike, an Ã¢â ¬Å“immense, poetic dignity.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã Â This volume also includes a gathering of essays celebrating the life and art of Theodore Waddell by the Montana curators, critics, scholars, poets, and fiction writers who have known him best.Ã Â Contributors include the Honorable Pat Williams, Robyn Peterson, Bob Durden, Gordon McConnell, Mark Browning, Donna Forbes, Greg Keeler, Patrick Zentz, Scott McMillion, William Hjortsberg, Paul Zarzyski, and Brian Petersen.

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages
Publisher: Drumlummon Institute; 1 edition (March 30, 2017)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0976968487
ISBN-13: 978-0976968481
Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 1.1 x 11.2 inches
Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #851,817 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Individual Artists > Essays #6651 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > United States #16412 inÃ Â Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

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Rick Newby has contributed major essays to the exhibition catalogs A Ceramic Continuum: Fifty Years of the Archie Bray Influence and The Most Difficult Journey: The Poindexter Collections of American Modernist Painting. He is the editor of In Poetic Silence: The Floral Paintings of Joseph Henry Sharp, by Thomas Minckler.

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