

INSIDE John Coleman • Small Works & Miniatures • Trailside Grand Re-opening

Previews of Works For Sale at Upcoming Shows

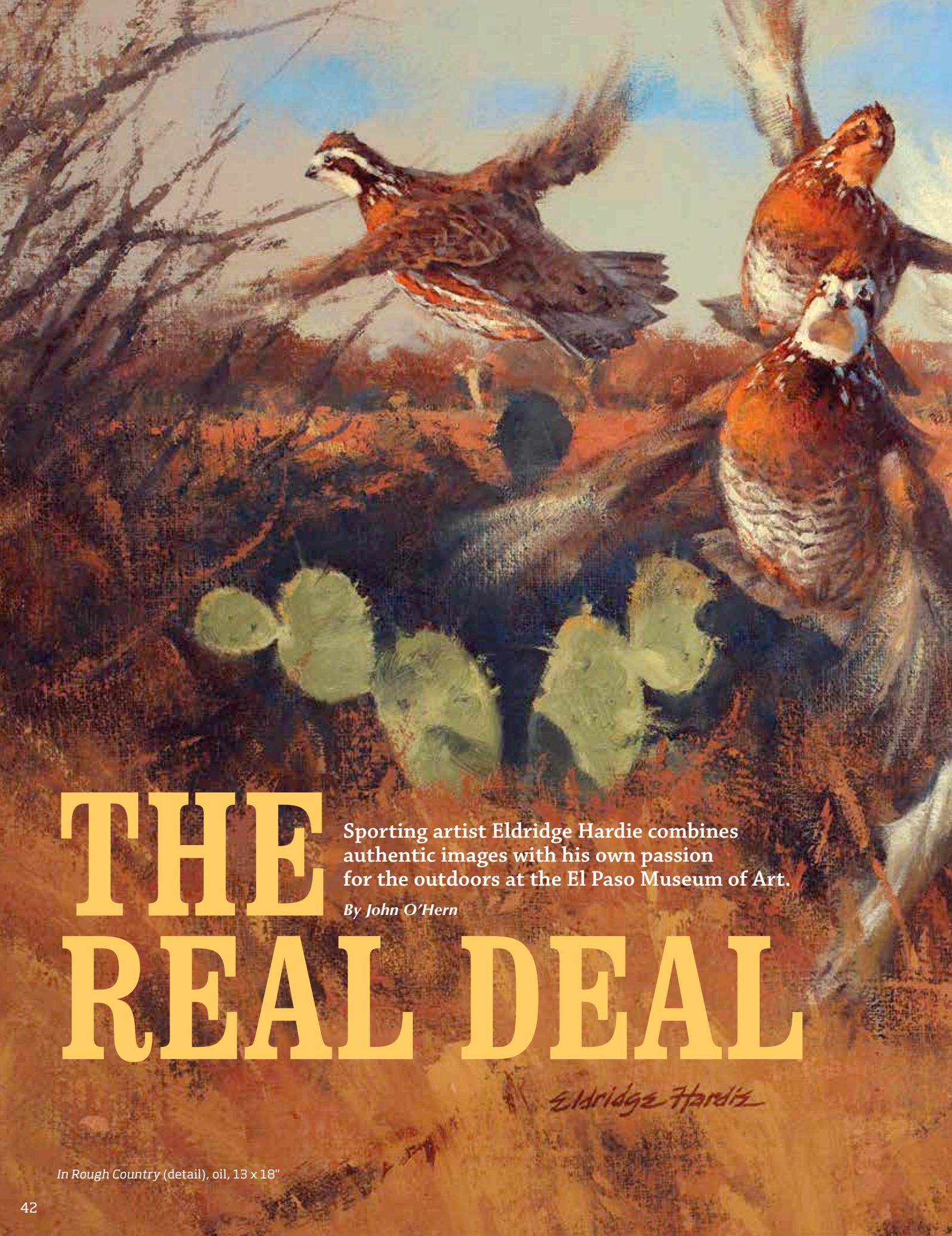
NOVEMBER 2016

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WESTERN ART

COLLECTOR





THE REAL DEAL

Sporting artist Eldridge Hardie combines authentic images with his own passion for the outdoors at the El Paso Museum of Art.

By John O'Hern

Eldridge Hardie

In Rough Country (detail), oil, 13 x 18"



Bubba Wood, proprietor of Collectors Covey in Dallas, a sporting art gallery, says, "Eldridge Hardie is the real deal. I know of no sporting artist that has spent more time in the field than El. The authenticity that we sportsmen relate to in his wonderful art reflects those long hours."

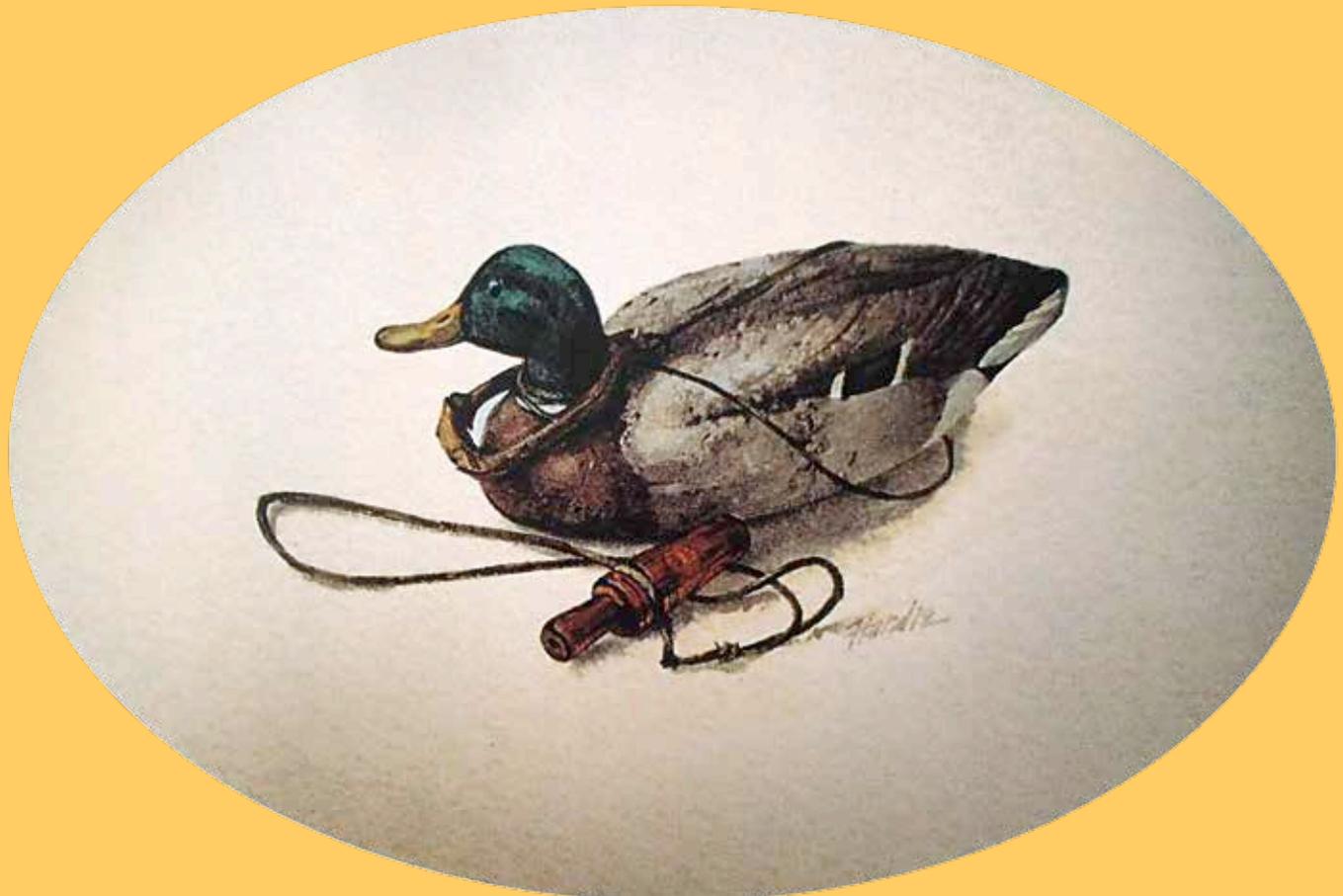
Artists who are intimately familiar with their subjects bring more than knowledge to their work. They bring a passion that animates it more than anything else can. Eldridge Hardie celebrates the animals and the hunters as well as their dogs and their equipment—from rods and guns to canoes.

Hardie grew up in El Paso, Texas, where an exhibition celebrating five decades of his sporting art will be held at the El Paso Museum of Art. *Eldridge Hardie—Art of a Life in Sport* opens October 20 and continues through March 5, 2017.

"I drew from an early age," Hardie recalls. "When I was about 6 my uncle came back from the war in the Pacific. I watched him paint a couple of watercolors and I was a goner. He went on to be a commercial illustrator in New York. When I came back to El Paso from art school I introduced myself to Tom Lea, the muralist and illustrator. Both he and my uncle were my role models.



Eldridge Hardie fishing at Soldier's Pool.



Mallard Decoy, watercolor, 5 x 8"



Homeward, oil, 24 x 36"



Panhandle Covey, oil, 24 x 36"



Hunter's Harvest, oil, 12 x 9"



Fish Creek Afternoon, oil, 24 x 36"



The artist in a goose pit during hunting season.

"My daughter, Abby, is a hiker and my son, Tom, has been a guide and reminds me that I can still get up at 3 in the morning to be at the duck blind at sunrise! About 20 years ago my wife, Ann, gave up teaching and ran across a book on marketing and got excited. She's taken away all the time-consuming things so I could paint. It's made all the difference."

Hardie's keen awareness benefits him both as a sportsman and as an artist. When he's out in the field it's a challenge to be involved in the hunt and the people he's with and still capture details that he will later incorporate into a painting. He carries a waterproof, shockproof camera in his front pocket and quickly captures a moment trying hard not to disrupt the hunt.

"When I first started painting," he says, "I had to decide what to do with my training. I first tried portrait painting but I was enough of a diplomat for that. I then realized I could paint what I knew and got excited about. I can't imagine having done differently. The subject is rich but I have to be authentic about it. It's not like painting a landscape or a barn. If you're painting pointing dogs people who know about them want them to be right. Painting the landscape allows a little more freedom to improvise and to be less specific.

"I paint what I know. Hunting and fishing and

my painting feed each other. I paint my vices."

Painting what he knows, Hardie sometimes paints just equipment that makes it possible for hunters to hunt and fishermen to fish. He now paints about one watercolor and four oils a year. *Miramichi Canoes* is a small watercolor of the canoes associated with salmon fishing on the Miramichi River in New Brunswick, Canada. "I thought it was an interesting composition," he says, "there's no horizon, the reflections. I've kept that one for myself." 🍷



Eldridge Hardie— Art of a Life in Sport

When: October 20, 2016-March 5, 2017

Where: El Paso Museum of Art,
1 Arts Festival Plaza, El Paso, TX 79901

Information: (915) 532-1707
www.elpasoartmuseum.org