

# The Fugitives



First in the *On the Run* Series

## LOOK CLOSER...

The time consuming art of scratchboard is unrivaled in its detail allowing Judy's seamless concealment of the rest of the herd. Consult the key above to locate the four spirits hidden in plain sight.

All across North America the wilderness and that which is wild and free continues to slowly disappear. In Judy's new series, *On the Run*, she concentrates on animals that find themselves caught up in dire circumstances.

*The Fugitives* is inspired by the Bureau of Land Management's plan to remove, over the next several years, nearly fifty percent of all wild horses from public lands. Running towards us from a dark background, these three are headed for a future that is even more foreboding. Larson, through her unique scratchboard and concealment technique has immortalized other members of the herd in the coats of these three wild spirits "on the run."

# The Protestors



Second in the *On the Run* Series

## LOOK CLOSER...

*The Protestors* portrays three prized Nez Percé horses, running for their very lives, in an attempt to evade the three U.S. cavalry soldiers (hidden in their coats) bent on their destruction. These horses represent the spirit of the Nez Percé, which continues to survive against all odds.

In 1877, the Nez Percé entered a war with the U.S. government and the entire tribe, with its several thousand carefully bred horses, embarked on a journey that would take them 1,300 miles toward the safe haven of Canada. Only forty miles from the border, the Nez Percé were besieged and outnumbered by the U.S. cavalry. Forced to surrender, Chief Joseph and his captured people were taken far from their homeland. Their exceptional horses, which Chief Joseph referred to as “my children,” were deliberately killed by the U.S. cavalry in attempt to thwart any further escape by the Nez Percé, and to crush their spirit by killing their animal companions. The U.S. Government sought to annihilate the tribal horses much as they sought to destroy the buffalo. Only a few horses were lost in the mountains, sold in the east or hidden away by ranchers. By the beginning of the 20th century, fewer than 300 Appaloosa horses remained.

# The Resisters



Third in the *On the Run* Series

## LOOK CLOSER...

Through her unique scratchboard and concealment technique, Judy Larson has immortalized, in the coats of these three horses “on the run,” two other members of the herd and a soldier giving chase.

In 1919, the United States Department of Interior ordered the Crow Indians to kill all wild horses on their reservation land, sacred ground that had been leased by the government to cattlemen. No Crow could abide by this order, a demand akin to asking a man to kill his own brother. In 1923, following a final ultimatum, the United States government hired local cowboys, joined later by Texas outfitters, to kill the horses on a bounty basis—four dollars for the tip of a horse’s ear. During the next seven years, the hired guns killed more than 40,000 horses, including the Crow’s personal mounts.

By 1930, the great and powerful Crow tribe was bereft of its horses, its culture severely damaged. To the Crow, whose livelihood depended on their prized horses, this tragic event was more devastating than a military defeat.

# The Pursued



Fourth in the *On the Run Series*

## LOOK CLOSER...

Judy has us encounter a pack of three wolves that has silently woven its way through a snow-covered forest. As they move towards us, a fourth brother joins them, a spectral ancestor and spirit of the wildness that this noble creature so embodies.

Full of mystery and power, the Indians of North America understood that the wolf was sacred. They called him “Brother” and knew in their souls that he was an integral part of the land. Even modern science tells us that the wolf, when present in an ecosystem, brings balance to the land and to its dwellers. Yet the wolf, by its very nature, incites passions for and against it. Today the gray wolf occupies only 2% of the land he once ranged. Regardless, this past March its status was changed from “endangered” to “threatened” everywhere but in the Southeast. Bounties still exist on wolves in some states and interest groups would like to see them in theirs as well.

# The Defiant



Fifth in the *On the Run* Series

## LOOK CLOSER...

Through her unique scratchboard and concealment technique, Judy Larson has immortalized, in the coats of these three horses "on the run," two other members of the herd and a soldier giving chase.

The year was 1858, and several companies of soldiers, both on foot and on horseback, under the leadership of Colonel George Wright, were engaged in a punitive military expedition against the Native American tribes, Yakama, Spokane, Palouse and Coeur d'Alene. On the morning of September 8, Colonel Wright and his troops spotted a large cloud of dust, which revealed the position of 800 Palouse horses. Although a valiant effort was made by the tribes to drive their horses into the mountains, after a fierce skirmish, the majority of the herd was captured. Although it was a crime at this time on the frontier to kill a horse, it was Wright's job to subdue the tribes' powerful hold over their land and to demoralize them. It took "the better part of two days" to shoot, club and kill all the horses, and, as the Native Americans watched helplessly from the hills, they could not believe what they saw.

# Fire and Flight



First in the *Forces of Nature Series*

## LOOK CLOSER...

"One day as a red-tailed hawk soared above me and passed before the sun, I was struck by how the sunlight seemed to burn like orange firelight through the hawk's tail. As I conceived this painting it seemed natural that just such a spirit would appear to guide this mustang beyond the reach of the passing danger".—JL

To live in harmony with the forces of nature is the essence of being wild. The untamed mustang embodies unbound freedom honed by the raucous ebb and flow of Mother Nature. Instincts, unfettered by the influence of man and acquired over generations, guide, like guardian spirits, the horse's coexistence with the elements. This mustang, bathed amber by the light of an encroaching prairie fire, makes for safety just beyond the edges of the temporary destruction. Soon, renewal will spring from the ashes but there is something more to these forces of nature.

# Air and Escape



Second in the *Forces of Nature Series*

## LOOK CLOSER...

White buffalo are hidden within the horses coat. Today, when a calf is born, it is visited by Native Americans and acknowledged as a symbol of the return to the old ways. It is a sign of answered prayers and that people are coming back to religion and spirituality.

As air, particularly in the form of wind, can spook even a savvy horse more than any other element. The wind provides protection to the wild horse, carrying smells of danger, and giving it time to escape to safety. The white buffalo also depends on this same protective power which the air provides. In the world of the Plains Indians, the white buffalo was revered and especially sacred. Deemed the most acceptable gift that could be obtained to offer to the Great Spirit, this rarest specimen of all buffalo, when encountered, was always killed for sacrifice. Ceremony and ritual accompanied the taking of a white buffalo. Although different tribes used the skin in various ways, all of them prized the white buffalo for its powerful spirituality.

# With Freedom For All



Third in the *Forces of Nature Series*

## LOOK CLOSER...

The eagle images hidden in *With Freedom For All*, symbolizes the deep desire for freedom in America, not only for its citizens, but also for its wildlife. The single, proud, wild horse symbolizes the millions of other horses that once roamed our great land.

The word freedom is a powerful, emotionally charged word, evoking ideas of independence, free will, opportunity and inalienable rights. Freedom enables change, learning, understanding, rescue and salvation. The very nature of the word, “freedom,” however, implies that there are those who are not free.

Freedom is not yet secured for all. At this very moment, an all out war is being waged against wolves. New legislation has already been signed that opens the door to the slaughter of wild horses and burros. And, tragically, for many Native Americans, they keep their heritage silent.

Let there be freedom for all.