



BY PAT STEVENS

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SCOTT MYERS
AND CHAD WRIGHT

Scott Myers glances at his bronze busts in the Pro Football Hall of Fame and it hits him--he has created masterpieces that will be here forever. "It is a very overwhelming and humbling feeling. I am like the players -- I kind of pinch myself."

This month Scott will be honored again, now 11 times, in those hallowed halls in Canton, Ohio. Even though he never played in the NFL, he shares a special legacy with those who represent the league's elite. "I always tell the players it is an honor to be on this journey with them," explains Scott.

The Path to Canton

Scott, who has sculpted busts for inductees since 2003, did Chris Doleman of the Minnesota Vikings for this year's HOF class. "Sculpting for the Pro Football Hall of Fame has been above and beyond what I imagined," stresses Scott. The process starts in April when he gets the call to meet with the player. "The NFL insists the artist meet with the player to help him understand the process." He has roughly three months to complete the head. "It is a special feeling to see your work unveiled at the enshrinement, to see it on television."



Two PASSIONS,



LEFT "Splash Day" – oil painting RIGHT Scott with Hall of Fame busts in background

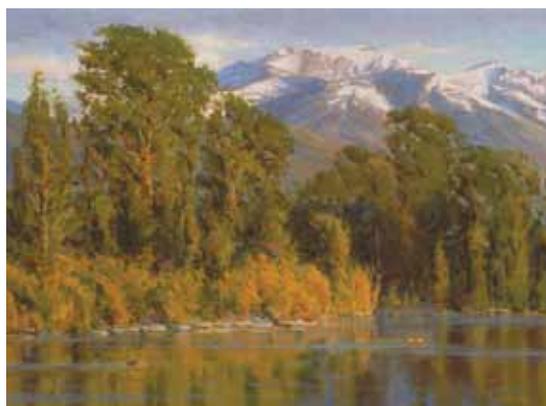
Two CAREERS



"Sculpting for the Pro Football Hall of Fame has been above and beyond what I imagined."

TOP "Cowhunting" – oil painting
BOTTOM LEFT "Quiet Sunrise" – oil painting
BOTTOM RIGHT "Two of a Kind" – oil painting featured on the cover of the Rocky Mountain Rider Magazine - June 2012 issue.

OPPOSITE TOP Chris Hanburger, Washington Redskins, Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2011 - Canton, Ohio (Bronze) **OPPOSITE MIDDLE** Rickey Jackson, New Orleans Saints and San Francisco 49ers, Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2010 - Canton, Ohio (Bronze) **OPPOSITE BOTTOM** Russ Grimm, Washington Redskins, Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2010 - Canton, Ohio, (Bronze)



The NFL provides measurements and photos from the inductee's playing days. "I start from scratch, using calipers to measure the distance from the chin to the back of the head. I create a set of specs, take measurements for the shape of the head and work with the player's pictures. We try to see how he wants to be depicted. It's the player's call."

Scott spends two weeks sculpting the inductee's cast before meeting with the player. "It is tough," he emphasizes, "because you have 25 pounds of wet clay sitting on a metal armature, and the slightest bump can alter the appearance greatly."

When the player meets with Scott, about half of the bust is already finished. At the studio, the player sits for four to six hours the first day, goes home and rests and returns the next day to sit for another six hours. Determining how to portray the player includes blending how the player looked during his playing days with how he currently looks. "The forehead and upper part of the head stay pretty much the same even as players age. However, the chin and weight changes make a difference in appearance." Scott encourages players to choose a look later in their playing days.

His sculpture must capture a special feeling that symbolizes the player's career. Sometimes he preserves a trademark expression, a hairstyle, a facial feature, but it must be one that pleases the player and one fans will instantly recognize. Scott strives to create a certain look--pleasant, but not happy; stern, but not sad and obviously lifelike.

"The induction is such a big deal for all the players. They are already members of an elite group, and it's neat to be part of their special celebration. It's a situation where I hardly know the players, but they treat me with such respect."

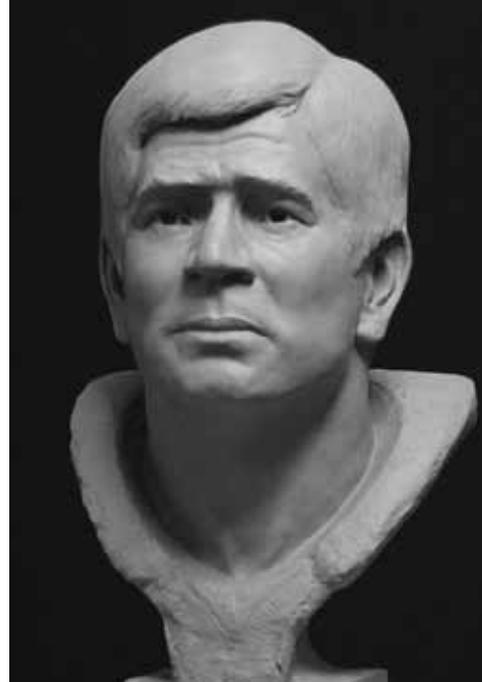
Some athletes also give Scott a special insight into the game. "Rayfield Wright kept saying over and over, 'I am in the Hall of Fame. I made that team and they can't cut me.' It dawned on me that these pro athletes are always worried they are going to be cut from the team. And I thought, 'what a relief for him.' Sort of the same feeling came over me, 'Wow, that head is in here and will be here forever.'"

"One of my most memorable moments was at Rayfield's Hall of Fame party in Canton. All the famous Cowboys were there. As Rayfield was saying his special thank you speeches, he asked, 'Is Scott Myers in the crowd?' He called me up on the stage; I looked down and Jerry Jones was right there in front of me."

"Another thrilling moment was sculpting Bob Hayes, the only person ever to wear a Super Bowl ring and win an Olympic Gold Medal. As a child, I watched him play at the Cotton Bowl and never imagined one day I might be sculpting him." Doing his sculpture was also bittersweet. "His family and I wished Bob could have been here for his induction."

In addition to the NFL busts, Scott is currently creating a bronze relief sculpture of the late Howard Hesby, which will be displayed on the Texas A&M University campus.

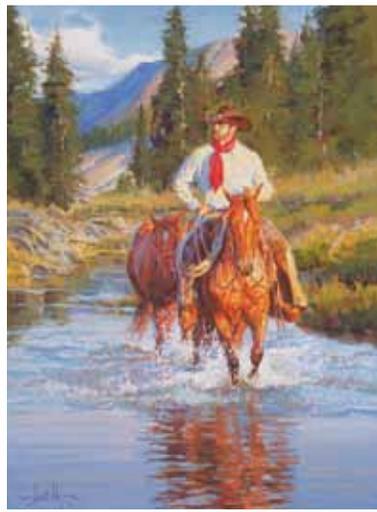
"Dr. Hesby was my freshman advisor and the first person I showed my art to in college. He was an important person in my life and always supported me," Scott explains. "When Dr. Hesby took students on tours, he would hand the tour site hosts one of my drawings as a token of appreciation."





THIS PAGE "Last Light" - oil painting from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shaw - Granbury, TX

OPPOSITE TOP "Clearfork" - oil painting
OPPOSITE MIDDLE "Coolin' Off" - oil painting from the permanent collection of Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library & J. Evetts Haley History Center, Midland, Texas
OPPOSITE BOTTOM "Shallow Creek" - oil painting from the permanent collection of Dr. and Mrs. Randy Stewart, College Station, Texas



Stepping Stones to New Dreams

These sculpting milestones are matched by a lifetime of equally impressive accomplishments. Each accomplishment in Scott's career led to another dream - and another success story. As he realizes new dreams, he embodies the old adage--if we do what we love, it's not work.

Scott has successfully combined two passions: a love of animals and a love of art - and created dual careers as a skilled veterinarian and as an accomplished artist and sculptor. This success offered him an unexpected perk: doing high-profile work sculpting Hall of Fame busts for the NFL.

Might Be a Cowboy

"My goal to be an artist has evolved. I just stayed focused until I realized my dream. In high school, I wanted to be a cowboy and artist, but when I mentioned I also loved animals, my counselor suggested I become a veterinarian," adds Scott.

And so with the counselor's suggestion, he began putting in place the first steps that made his career and personal success possible.

Western Influence

Scott has been doodling and drawing since early childhood. "I grew up as the class artist who was always drawing and sketching." In junior high, his teacher introduced him to western and wildlife art. "I sold my first art in 9th grade. My teacher began taking my art to the teachers' lounge, selling it and bringing me back the money." As word of his art spread locally, he began to draw and sell portraits of champion riders in the Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association (PRCA).

A native of Fort Worth, he developed special interests in ranching, horses and cattle during high school. His favorite activities included tie-down calf roping and team roping in rodeo arenas including Northside Stockyards and Will Rogers Coliseum. During high school and college, he worked on ranches in Texas and Montana. Those early experiences provided valuable insight about western life and inspired many of his pencil drawings, paintings and sculptures.



Blending School and Art

Scott earned his veterinary medicine degree from Texas A&M in 1984. As he studied to become a veterinarian, he also cultivated his interest in art. "At that time, I focused on charcoal sketches because supplies were less expensive than oil paints. I could start sketches, stop and study, then go back and finish. Interruptions didn't matter."

He also became an entrepreneur. He would draw a piece and sell it with an agreement that he could make prints of it. Then, he would use the money from the original to fund copies of the drawing and sell those prints. He even paid his way through vet school by selling his drawings and paintings.

When Scott was 24 and still a college student, he started receiving recognition for his pencil and charcoal sketches. *Western Horseman* Magazine featured his art work and noted he "seems to be headed for two different but promising careers."

Combining Medicine and Art

After opening his Granbury practice, Scott set up a studio so he could work on sculpting in terra cotta. He often worked 45-50 hours a week in the clinic and spent any remaining time sculpting.

The blending of two careers and two passions provided the perfect balance and also helped him reach pinnacles as an artist. "The experiences in my life help me





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It is both."*

create. You learn how to paint by practice. It takes hours and hours of practice. Every part of my life including my labs in vet school comes to life at the tip of my brush.”

“I love this dual career of vet practice and art work. My art interests and work with animals feed off each other and are related. In medicine, I can help fix or improve an animal’s quality of life in a few days or weeks. But in art, projects take several months to complete. They are completely different lives, but I love them both,” emphasizes Scott.

His day-to-day experiences as a vet provide inspiration for many sculptures. He builds on his western heritage as he expands his artistic talents. Many of his western paintings depict horses in panoramic landscapes and several larger-than-life sculptures capture scenes in nature. However, his art isn’t limited to western themes.

Italian Cultural Influence

After several trips to Italy, his exposure to Italian culture and magnificent architecture added another dimension to his sculptures. “My trips to Italy helped me make a connection with the Renaissance. I was immersed in their culture. A friend introduced me to the Foundry and I was able to work there.” He quickly discovered Pietrasanta, a haven for artists, and now has a piece in the permanent collection of the Museo dei Bozzetti.

Turning Point

There are always turning points in careers when we have to make a move. “About 10 years ago, I took advantage of a window of opportunity, sold my vet practice, but continued to practice.” This enabled him to devote more time to art to create a national presence.

Scott achieved that national presence when Trailside Gallery, a premier western gallery, featured his work. He has since received national and international honors, participated in national and international juried competitions and amassed an extensive museum collection. *Sports Illustrated* also recently honored him by choosing his bust of Bruce Matthews as “Best of the Hall of Fame.”

Scott sees his art as a way to enrich people’s lives. “There are little things that many times people miss because of their busy lives. People speed through life, but they can look at my art and relax. It’s fun to show people part of my world they might otherwise miss.”

Just as he captures a special moment in the players’ lives, he aspires to preserve beauty in his art. “It’s those fleeting moments of beauty, of glory, that I’m trying to capture whether it be a smile on a child’s face, a beautiful thundercloud before sunset or the first light of day shining on a working ranch horse.”

Whether commemorating Hall of Fame players, celebrating the life of an influential professor, practicing medicine, or creating western art, Scott sees them as opportunities to blend his two passions.

“I love both worlds,” Scott emphasizes. “In one, I’m isolated, and in the other, I’m working with people nonstop. God continues to show me my life is neither art nor veterinary medicine. It is both.” ✠LGL

