

# Tom Saubert

*...Western's Artist - Capturing the Spirit of the West*



Photo courtesy of Scott Young.

Tom Saubert

Tom Saubert is more than an artist – he is a historian, a story teller, a time machine that transports you to a time and place and people through his accurate, sensitive, and masterful art.

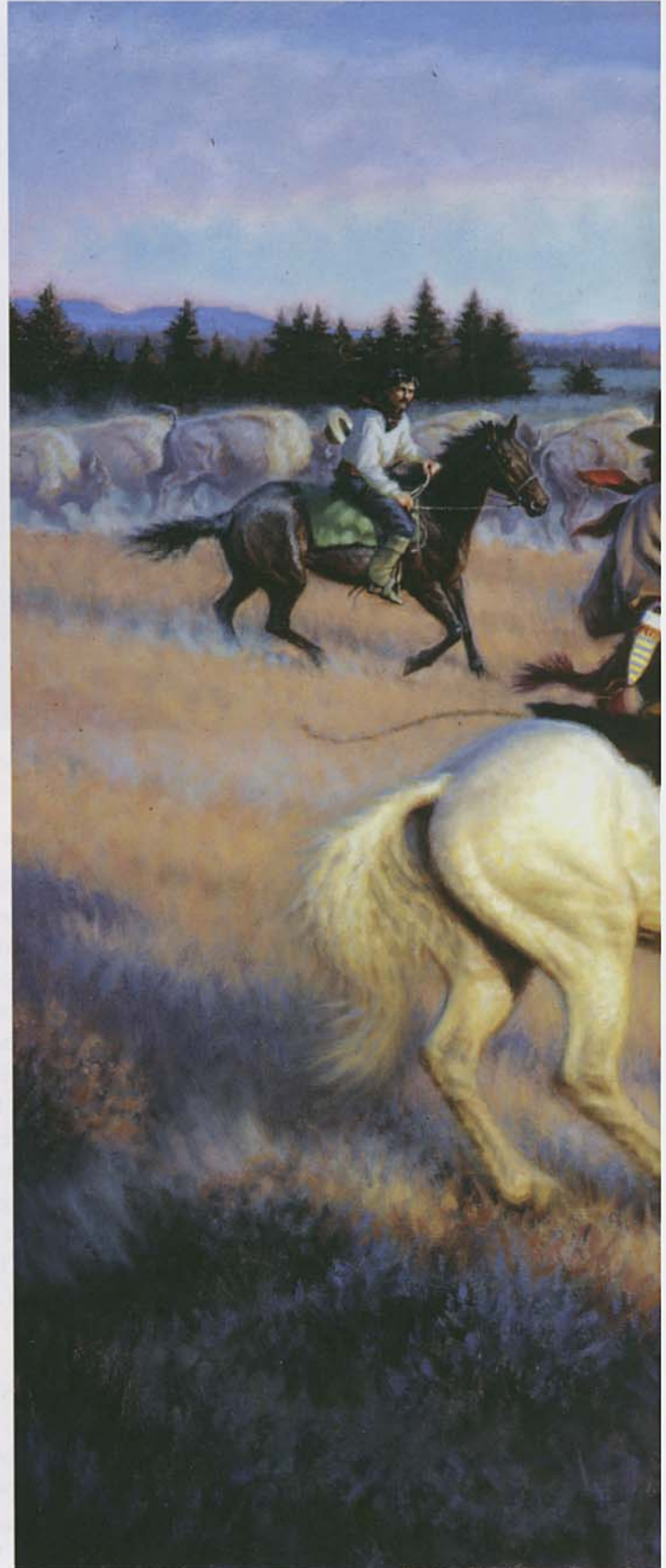
His meticulous attention to every historic and physical detail creates a sense that he has captured a moment in time and brought it back to life again.

Even his studio is a product of this love for the past and the ability to recreate it. Assembled from logs and wood salvaged from century-old log settler cabins, it holds a collection of Montana relics, books, antlers, skulls, and western costumes. Here in this wonderful atmosphere of the old West, Tom creates his paintings of the people, places, and animals that are Montana's heritage.

His goal in his artwork is "powerful simplicity" – which is also a trademark of early life in Montana. His careful depiction of his subjects frequently includes using costuming and props that he has researched and had custom-made to ensure the authenticity of his work. "I grew up in Montana and I owe it to them to do it right," Tom explains.

His love for history began as a child growing up in Montana where he sifted through the cool earth below a buffalo jump and waded in a bubbling stream in search of bones and arrowheads. He gulped up the stories of old timers who had lived in Montana when she was raw and pure. He made trips to the Charlie Russell Museum, which was just a few blocks from his grandmother's house in Great Falls, with the same enthusiasm other children had visiting the candy store. Over the years Tom's collection grew, along with his appetite and skill for drawing and painting.

His love for history and art developed hand-in-hand like a tree and its bark. At three he was already creating sculpture and sketches and at five he was taking art lessons. All the while he was busy collecting pieces of ideas, information, and objects to complete the jigsaw puzzle of Montana's past – forming a valuable link to the present.







*"RED RIVER ROBE HUNTERS"*  
Oil on Canvas  
30" x 40"





*"HEAD AND TAILED HOME"*  
Oil on Canvas  
12" x 16"



*"KUTENAI HUNTING EFFIGY"*  
Oil on Canvas  
12" x 9"

After earning his BFA at Cleveland Institute of Art, he studied with several peers including Ned Jacob and later Zhuo Liang, who both exposed him to the mature impressionism of the Russian artists. This style merged with Saubert's natural talent at realism to raise his art work to another level.

He kept an amazing sketchbook to gather the bits and pieces he learned about art and Montana history - chronicled with accurate paintings and sketches of Native American culture and prose and notes inspired by his journey into the past.

It is this dedicated and impassioned study that gives his work integrity, depth - and spirit. He paints with heart and captures heart - and the essence of life in the west both yesterday and today.

In the warm glow of his log cabin studio Tom can become immersed in a piece of the West where he can time travel.





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In spite of a myriad of fascinating objects that brim walls and shelves, my eyes are pulled to the easel and a painting in process. It has all the aspects that make a Saubert painting so wonderful - bloated clouds rest on the snowy Rocky Mountain landscape where a Metis Indian stands with a dignified air in front of a Red River cart. The light and shadows are perfectly rendered so you can practically smell the snow and the moist air on your face. But the landscape simply sets the scene for the powerful figure who gazes over his shoulder, softly lit by a filtered sunlight. As I leave the studio I look over my shoulder to take one more look at this deerskin clad Native who has taken on life in Tom Saubert's painting. Even though silent - he speaks of Montana's past. **L**

For more information:

[WWW.TOMSAUBERT.COM](http://WWW.TOMSAUBERT.COM)

Mountain Trails Gallery - Jackson Hole, Wyoming  
 Montana Trails Gallery, Bozeman, Montana



"BUCKING HORSE SALE"  
 Oil on Canvas  
 18" x 14"