

"Stand Still, You Buzzards—Don't Go for Those Guns!"

Matt Straub was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and has spent many years hitchhiking and hopping freight trains across the Western States. His work reveals a deep nostalgia for the American West. These paintings echo the period of transition between Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art. The drama created by his painted surfaces is a counterpart to the power of iconic graphic images.

The narratives and the violent and sentimental mythologies of the American West are depicted in his paintings. This is an America defined by melancholy sunsets, badlands, gunfights, outlaws, and red-blooded heroes. References include Hollywood Westerns and the comics and pulps of the 1940's-50's. BANG! BLAM!

The artist says his work "looks under the hood of the present-day reality of the West, with its concrete plains and Mini-Mart cowboys—where the buffalo used to roam. These Pop-Western paintings are like graffiti-splattered boxcars rolling across the landscape."