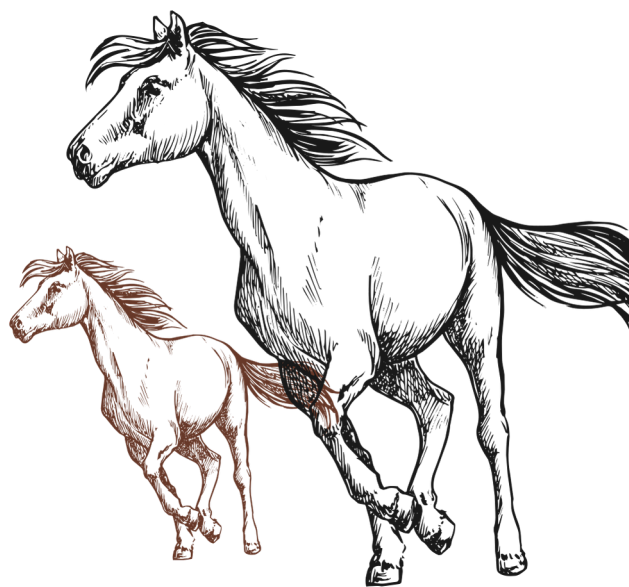


April 24, 2026



TOM LEA ARTWORK CONSIGNMENT CATALOG AND VALUATIONS





Artist: Tom Lea
Work: **Nueva Viscaya**
Date: 1963
Medium: Ink wash on paper
Size: 11 x 4 ¾ inches

VALUE: \$8,000.00

About: Tom Lea's books and paintings humanize the history of the El Paso region. This work shows a Spanish explorer standing with his weight on one leg (contrapposto) causing his torso to slightly twist - an unusually natural pose for a man in armor. Lea's 1963 illustrated novel, *The Hands of Cantú*, is set in Nueva Viscaya - the first province in northern Mexico colonized in 1562. Before writing the book, Tom Lea painted portraits of his characters in Chinese ink, pinning them to his studio wall and letting them tell the story. This ink wash study was made during this time.

Provenance: During Tom Lea's life, he sold most of his work directly out of his studio to his friends until 1993 when he entrusted his work to Adair Margo. This painting was purchased by El Paso friends Bates and Catherine Belk and inherited by their son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Margaret Amada Belk, also of El Paso.



Valuation:

Based on actual private sales of comparable works on paper sold through Adair Margo Gallery, 2009-2014.

Pioneer, 1962 Sold for \$35,000 in 2011

Watercolor

19 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Private Austin Collection

Preliminary Drawing for Knight in the Sun Sold for \$19,500 in 2013
1961

Pen and ink on paper

8" x 5"

Private El Paso Collection

Mural Design for South wall of West Texas Sold for \$55,000 in 2008
Room, Hall of State, Dallas, Texas, 1936

Casein tempera on paper

7 x 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Private Dallas Collection

No 14 Tayopa, 1938 Sold for \$3,500. In 2014

Ink on paper

7 x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Private El Paso Collection

Cortez to the Aztecs, 1938 Sold for \$5,800 in 2014

Pen & ink on paper

6 x 5 $\frac{1}{4}$

Private El Paso Collection

Value: \$ 8,000.00



Artist: Tom Lea

Work: **Painting for cover of FEB 1954**

Issue of Nation's Bussiness Magazine

Date: 1954

Medium: Casein Tempera

Size: 11 3/4" x 13 1/4"

VALUE: \$30,000.00

About the painting: The painting of a Navaho shepherd and an airplane was inspired by Tom Lea's visit to the cattle ranch of Gates Davis, a childhood friend. According to Tom Lea, the ranch was "almost entirely surrounded by (sometimes troublesome) Navaho lands, and was situated on a dirt road I remember well, north of Crown Point and south of Chaco Canyon National Monument...the landscape feature in the background was called Haystack Mountain by Rancher Davis, and there was actually a short and rough landing strip in the vicinity, though I never saw a plane land on it. Using a little dab of "artistic license" I created the scene for the Art Editor of Nation's Business – and it's truly a pleasure for me to learn now that I was realistic enough to depict satisfactorily your own experience flying a small plane in Northwest New Mexico once upon a time!" (Letter from Tom Lea to Mr. David East, Greensboro, NC, 14 Feb 1982)

Provenance: After the picture appeared on the cover of Nation's Business in Feb 1954, it was given to Mr. Lawrence F. Lee, President and Chairman of the Board of Occidental Life Insurance Company of North Carolina, when he was President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Lee then gave the picture to a senior official with Occidental, David East, after East told him that it looked like an actual incident that occurred on a flight from Albuquerque to Farmington, New Mexico, when he had to land his four passenger Aeronca Sedan in a field near the Nagisi Trading Post in the Navaho Indian Reservation Country. (Letter from David East to Tom Lea, 21 Jan 1982) The painting was left to Mrs. East after David East died, and she left everything she had to a gentleman who befriended her and cared for her until the end of her life, Robert "Cat" Whitfield of Waxhaw, North Carolina.



Valuation:

Based on actual private sales of comparable works on paper sold through Adair Margo Gallery, 2009-2014.

Encierro, 1946 Sold for \$50,000 in 2009

Conte Crayon on paper

14" x 21"

Private Dallas Collection

Pioneer, 1962 Sold for \$35,000 in 2011

Watercolor

19 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Private Austin Collection

Preliminary Study for Stampede, 1940 Sold for \$63,300 in 2007 Gouache on paper

5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

David Dike Auction

Mural Panel Mimbres Hotsprings, 1935 Sold for \$58,900 in 2007

Watercolor on paper

8.5 " x 16.5"

David Dike Auction

Value: \$30,000.00



Artist: Tom Lea
Work: **Payday**
Date: 1961
Medium: Oil on
Canvas
Size: 22 x 30 inches

VALUE: \$200,000.00

**Valued by Heritage Auction
Appraisal Services, Dallas**

About: The rider in the painting is traversing a flat desert with a large cactus in the foreground, and he is leading a burrow loaded down with supplies. Tom and Sarah said the painting captures a scene of a vaquero who has made his way into town to get paid and is on his trip home with his burro carrying his supplies and necessities he bought with his wages to carry him over until the next time he is paid. The tilt of the animals' heads and ears suggest the journey so far has been a long and they have all settled in to a long, slow journey still to go.

Provenance: : Originally purchased from Tom by Eloise Munson in the early 1960's, this painting was inherited by Peggy Munson Wilcox in 1970. Notes about the painting and correspondence are included in the Tom Lea Papers MS 476 at UTEP, file 145.23.



Valuation:

Based on actual private sales of comparable works on canvas by Adair Margo, the Tom Lea Institute, David Dike Fine Art, and private sales, 2003-2025.

Hills of Mexico, 1947.

Sold for \$55,000 in 2025 by the Tom Lea Institute

Casein tempera

20 x 16"

Private Collection

Recuerdo Lágrimas, 1967

Sold for \$210,000 in 2018 by Adair Margo

Oil on Canvas

26 x 38"

Private Collection

Your House Waits Yet, no date

Priced at \$280,000 in 2006

Oil on Canvas

28 x 36"

Private Collection

New Country, 1978

Sold for \$103,500 in 2005 by David Dike Fine Art

Oil on Canvas

26 x 30"

Private Collection

Dry December, no date

Sold for \$112,000 in 2003 by David Dike Fine Art

Oil on Canvas

28 x 36"

Private Collection

Value: \$ 200,000.00



Artist: Tom Lea

Work: **Sabbath**

Afternoon

Date: 1969

Medium: Oil on Canvas

Size: 32 x 40 inches

VALUE: \$250,000.00

**Valued by Heritage Auction
Appraisal Services, Dallas**

About: In the painting, the mule on the observer's left has its ears upright, indicating this animal is alert to the surroundings and what lies ahead. The other mule on the observer's right has more relaxed ears pointing slightly back, indicating it is likely listening to the rancher and his wife. The couple in the buckboard is coming home from Sunday services and enjoying the quiet ride back up from the lowlands. The tilt of the woman's parasol suggests the afternoon sun, and the lush grass, along with hints of newly emerging flowers, indicate an afternoon in the springtime.

Provenance: This painting was one that Tom mentioned to David Wilcox's parents when they enquired about purchasing a canvas from him in the late 1960's. He was working on the piece when they spoke, and after he finished it, they visited Tom in El Paso, where they were able to see and purchase it. The work always had a prominent place in their living room, any entertaining in their home took place in front of *Sabbath Afternoon*. The image of this painting was also used in a poster for an exhibit at the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon, Texas, in 1969. This painting is referenced in Tom Lea Papers MS 476 at UTEP, file 146.30 and Map Case B, Drawer 6, number 10.



Valuation:

Based on actual private sales of comparable works on canvas by Adair Margo, the Tom Lea Institute, David Dike Fine Art, and private sales, 2003-2025.

Hills of Mexico, 1947.

Sold for \$55,000 in 2025 by the Tom Lea Institute

Casein tempera

20 x 16"

Private Collection

Recuerdo Lágrimas, 1967

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New Country, 1978

Sold for \$103,500 in 2005 by David Dike Fine Art

Oil on Canvas

26 x 30"

Private Collection

Dry December, no date

Sold for \$112,000 in 2003 by David Dike Fine Art

Oil on Canvas

28 x 36"

Private Collection

Value: \$ 250,000.00



Artist: Tom Lea
Work: **Dancing Arabian**
Medium: Charcoal
Size: 22 x 28 ½ inches
VALUE: \$9,000.00

Provenance: During Tom Lea's life, he sold most of his work directly out of his studio to his friends until 1993 when he entrusted his work to Adair Margo. This painting was purchased by Amy Skinner from Adair in the 1990s.



Valuation:

Based on actual private sales and valuations of comparable works on paper, 2016-2025.

Study of a Horse in Motion, cir 1930.

Valued for \$1,500 in 2016

Pencil on paper

9 ½ x 8"

Private Collection

Galloping Horse (recto and verso), cir 1930.

Valued for \$2,000 in 2016

Brush and Ink on Natural Velum

8 x 10"

Private Collection

Illustration for Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver, 1938

Sold for \$5,000 in 2025

Ink on paper

5 ¾ x 8 ½"

Private Collection

Study for Thieves in the Rain, 1976

Sold for \$18,000 in 2024

Brush and Ink on paper

22 ½ x 29 ½ in.

Private Collection

Value: \$9,000.00



Artist: Tom Lea
Work: **Two Riders**
Medium: Charcoal
Size: 15 x 23 inches

VALUE: \$7,500.00

Provenance: During Tom Lea's life, he sold most of his work directly out of his studio to his friends until 1993 when he entrusted his work to Adair Margo. This painting was purchased by Amy Skinner from Adair in the 1990s.



Valuation:

Based on actual private sales and valuations of comparable works on paper, 2016-2025.

Study of a Horse in Motion, cir 1930.

Valued for \$1,500 in 2016

Pencil on paper

9 ½ x 8”

Private Collection

Galloping Horse (recto and verso), cir 1930.

Valued for \$2,000 in 2016

Brush and Ink on Natural Velum

8 x 10”

Private Collection

Illustration for Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver, 1938

Sold for \$5,000 in 2025

Ink on paper

5 ¾ x 8 ½”

Private Collection

Study for Thieves in the Rain, 1976

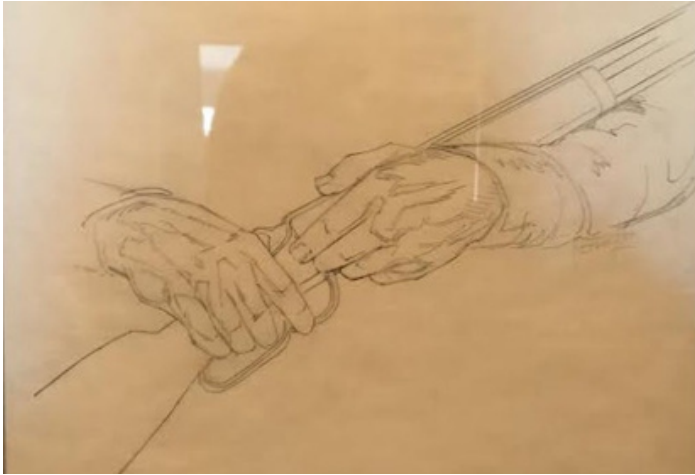
Sold for \$18,000 in 2024

Brush and Ink on paper

22 ½ x 29 ½ in.

Private Collection

Value: \$7,500.00



Artist: Tom Lea
Work: **Sketch for Who
Came to Stay**
Medium: Charcoal
Size: 10 x 13 ½ inches
VALUE: \$2,500.00

About the painting: This preliminary drawing was done in preparation for Tom Lea's 1984 painting *Who Came to Stay*. Tom Lea's 1984 painting *Who Came to Stay* was commissioned by Haskell Monroe, President of UTEP, when the new library was built. Tom Lea made many drawings in preparation for his paintings, searching for the right selection and presentation of forms. He probed for the underlying structure of the visible world and when he was satisfied with a final drawing, he covered the back with graphite and traced its outline onto a canvas like a classical fresco painter.

Provenance: During Tom Lea's life, he sold most of his work directly out of his studio to his friends until 1993 when he entrusted his work to Adair Margo. This painting was purchased by Amy Skinner from Adair in the 1990s.



Valuation:

Based on actual private sales and valuations of comparable works on paper, 2016-2025.

Study of a Horse in Motion, cir 1930.

Valued for \$1,500 in 2016

Pencil on paper

9 ½ x 8"

Private Collection

Galloping Horse (recto and verso), cir 1930.

Valued for \$2,000 in 2016

Brush and Ink on Natural Velum

8 x 10"

Private Collection

Illustration for Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver, 1938

Sold for \$5,000 in 2025

Ink on paper

5 ¾ x 8 ½"

Private Collection

Study for Thieves in the Rain, 1976

Sold for \$18,000 in 2024

Brush and Ink on paper

22 ½ x 29 ½ in.

Private Collection

Value: \$ 2,500.00



Artist: Tom Lea
Work: **Calzado de Tres**
Medium: Gouache, ink,
and watercolor
Size: 29 ¼ x 26 inches
VALUE: \$20,000.00

Valued by Heritage Auction
Appraisal Services, Dallas

About the painting: The phrase "Calzado de tres, no lo vendes, ni lo dé, guardarlo para tu vejez" (Three-shoes, don't sell them, don't give them away, keep them for your old age) is a popular saying from gaucho folklore, especially in Argentina and Uruguay, which advises keeping a horse with white spots on three legs (three-shoed) for life, as it is considered an animal of good fortune, loyal and of great value, not to be traded, but to be kept in old age as a treasure, unlike those with two or four marks that are sold.

Provenance: The artwork was previously displayed at the State National Bank in downtown El Paso. Charles C. (Buddy) Dunn Jr. served on the bank's Board of Directors from the late 1970s to the early 1980s. He acquired the piece when the bank was closed and subsequently passed it down to his daughter, Anna Fuller.



Artist: Tom Lea
Work: **Horns**
Medium: Ink on Paper
Size: 14 x 11 inches

VALUE: \$17,500.00

About the painting: This drawing was done for *Knight in the Sun*: Harper B. Lee, First Yankee Matador, a biography written by Marshall Hail and illustrated by Tom Lea. Tom Lea's 1941 painting *Lead Steer*. Tom provided 19 total illustrations for the book. A signed first edition and related ephemera are included in the sale of the artwork.

Provenance: The artwork was previously owned by Joseph Bender of Joseph Bender Art and Antiques, who then passed it down to his wife, Dr. Arianna Bender.



Valuation:

Based on actual private sales and valuations of comparable works on paper, 2016-2025.

Illustration for Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver, 1938

Sold for \$5,000 in 2025

Ink on Paper

5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Private Collection

Self Portrait from a Snapshot made on a Hunt in the Quitman Mts. In November 1936, 1961

Valued for \$21,000 in 2024

Ink on Paper

13 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 17"

Private Collection

In wilderness unknown and previously unseen by Christians, no date

Sold for \$10,064 in 2023

Pencil and ink on paper

19 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 9"

Private Collection

Sketch for heading of Chapter 1, The Wonderful Country, 1950

Sold for \$13,000 in 2023

Pen and ink wash

5" x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Private Collection

Value: \$ 17,500.00



Artist: Tom Lea
Work: **Study for Lead Steer**
Medium: Crayon on Paper
Size: 12 x 9 inches
VALUE: \$6,500.00

About the painting: This preliminary drawing was done in preparation for Tom Lea's 1941 painting *Lead Steer*. Tom Lea's 1941 painting *Lead Steer* is currently in the collection of the Blanton Museum of Art. Tom Lea made many drawings in preparation for his paintings, searching for the right selection and presentation of forms. He probed for the underlying structure of the visible world, and when he was satisfied with a final drawing, he covered the back with graphite and traced its outline onto a canvas like a classical fresco painter.

Provenance: The artwork was previously owned by Joseph Bender of Joseph Bender Art and Antiques, who then passed it down to his wife, Dr. Arianna Bender.



Valuation:

Based on actual private sales and valuations of comparable works on paper, 2016-2025.

Brave Cow and her Bull Calf, 1946

Sold for \$55,000 in 2013

Pastel, crayon on paper

18 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

Private Collection

Sentinel, 1959

Sold for \$55,000 in 2009

Wax Crayon encaustic

19 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 27"

Private Collection

Encierro, 1946

Sold for \$50,000

Conte Crayon

14" x 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Private Collection

Study for Thieves in the Rain, 1976

Sold for \$18,000 in 2024

Brush and Ink on paper

22 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Private Collection

Study for the Year it Rained

Sold for \$17,500 in 2023

Pen and Ink, Watercolor wash

14 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Private Collection

Value: \$ 6,500.00