

Raymond Ryan

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Western artist Raymond Ryan is holding on hard to a way of life that is fast disappearing. He visits working ranches and other sites to chronicle traditional lifestyles, culture and nature. Ryan has a fierce pride and love for Texas, and is both alarmed and saddened by the rapid changes sweeping his native state and its people. He feels Texas will be the poorer for losing its traditional flavor and uniqueness. Ryan draws, "I want to record as much of the old Texas as I can before it's gone." Some say he was born a hundred years too late.

Ryan still lives on the thickly wooded rural land where he was born. Where the Ryan family name is a part of the area's early history. It is a perfect setting of mood and harmony for the realism captured in his work.

Primarily using acrylics, Ryan is equally skilled in the art of pencil drawing, and has recently started pyrography (wood burning). Attempting to elevate it from a craft to an art form. He paints and draws western and rural subjects with emphasis on atmosphere and sunlight. Seldom entering juried shows. Ryan has had a number of one-man shows commanding recognition. He has work on permanent display in a special collection representative of the character and heritage of the area in the Rotary Gallery of the Museum of East Texas. He received Best of Show in a Texas Fine Arts Association exhibition. Ryan has also done book illustrations, including *The Cornbread Whistle*, Diboll's sesquicentennial project, which recently won the T. R. Fehrenbach Publications community history award through the Texas Historical Commission. He is represented in many public, private and corporate collections.

Ryan is a certified peace officer and serves as a reserve sheriff's deputy and firearms range officer. His favorite pastimes are shooting, reading, and exploring the woods and back roads of East Texas. He also plays the Dobro in a Bluegrass Band.

#3 Lufkin City Hall – 1979- Oil on canvas. Lone rider looking at his house in the snow. Signed and dated.

#24 Lufkin City Hall – 1977- Oil on canvas. Rider and extra horse in the snow. Anderson Feed Store in background. Gray, unber, black, brown palette. Signed and dated.

#30 Lufkin City Hall – 1976- Oil on canvas. Contrast of light and dark. Cowboy with five horses. White background. Signed and dated.