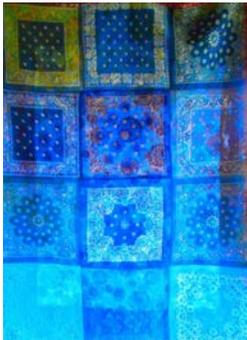




ROB MCDONALD'S Bandana Quilt Collection

Created by Mika Brown Hyman



On Display at the 8th Annual Delta Visual Arts Show

The eleven quilts were made by Mika Hyman from a collection of bandanas that came from the late Rob McDonald. He wore a bandana every day and saved them all. The collection gives a glimpse of Rob's unique personality. Rob was a real Rodeo Cowboy and won the World Bull Riding Championship in 1977. Mika worked with 150 bandanas that were all starched and ironed and folded to create 11 quilts. This was a daunting task for a relatively new quilter. The result is a wonderful collection of rodeo memories and a reflection on the life of an iconic Jackson County resident.

Rob was raised in Weldon, Arkansas where his love of the cowboy life began. His father was his first riding instructor and greatest teacher of the cowboy way. Mr. McDonald further encouraged Rob's natural talent by building a full sized, lighted rodeo arena in the family's back yard. His great sense of balance and natural ability were evident at an early age. Rob excelled in High School Rodeo in events including, Bareback Bronc Riding, Roping, Saddle Bronc Riding, and Bull Riding. He was a member of the Newport High School Class of 1966.

Following High School, Rob began travelling the rodeo circuit, competing in the International Rodeo Associations Bull Riding Championship. He was awarded runner-up in 1976 and in 1977 received the World Bull Riding Championship at Madison Square Garden.

Rob McDonald was a cowboy in the truest sense of the word. He spent his life riding bulls, training horses, and performing as a rodeo cowboy. He also taught bull-riding schools, and trained cutting horses. Much of his talents were devoted to training cutting horses, considered the most intelligent, expensive, and difficult of horses to train. Rob was able to communicate with animals, especially horses, in an uncanny way. Watching a horse under his saddle try to please him was an amazing thing to witness.

Rob McDonald will forever be remembered as a genuinely kind gentleman with the spirit of a cowboy, and for his trademark handle bar mustache, quiet demeanor, broad smile. His gentle ways were able to lighten the mood of anyone he encountered. The last several years he spent enjoying being a father, grandfather, and as always working with horses. Rob is sorely missed by those privileged to call him family and friend.