

[The Houlihan Catch](#) by [Rockwell Smith](#) (On Sale!)

Lithograph on Paper - Main Subject: Western



**Item Number**

8687479416

**Retail Value**

\$85

**ArtRev.com Price**

\$45

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**Dimensions (As Shown)**

23W x 15.75H Inches

58.42W x 40.01H cm

**Medium**

Lithograph on Paper

**Edition**

- Limited Edition of 300

- Hand-Signed 

- Numbered 

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**About Rockwell Smith**

Rockwell Smith was born to ranch life on his father's 89,000 acre ranch spread in Northern Idaho, on October 21, 1955. His early years were spent in a cow camp and he spent his early boyhood around range horses, range cattle and cowboys, far away from the bright lights of a large city. His first associates were men of the western cattle ranges who made their living in the cattle business. His cowboy artist father set Rocky an example to follow, encouraging him to draw and paint what he saw and knew best. Rocky received an abundance of encouragement from his father and mother, who were delighted to see the talent displayed by their son. "Paint what you know and know what you paint," are the words of the counsel Rocky has received during his entire artistic career. Rockwell has lived all his life in the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Utah and Montana and his intense interest in the western world around him comes to life in his detailed canvasses.

He completed his first oil of the heads of a mare and her colts when he was but five years old. His detailed sketches of horses and Indians filled the Smith home in his early years, and have been mostly replaced by his fine paintings. After the ninth grade, Rocky quit school to become a full time painter. His parents encouraged him to finish school, but he refused to attend and

became almost immovable from behind his easel. He has turned out a large number of canvasses in that time, all of which show his great feelings for people and animals and his intense observation of his surroundings.

Rockwell's love of the Indian people is shown with great feeling in his paintings. He has always lived on the borders of Indian Reservations and has had the opportunity to observe the Indian tribes closely. His uncles have adopted four young Indian girls and Rockwell has gotten to know them well. He has always been encouraged to study the work of the great masters, including the 15th century Dutch painters, who were committed to the completion and mastery of each work of art. This devotion is evident in the great amount of time spent with each painting. Even after it is finished it is given critical approval by each member of his family who are all totally supportive of his success as an artist. Then the painting is set aside to "distill," and brought out a few weeks later to receive a fresh eye, and possible changes and finishing touches.

Even at a relatively young age for an artist, Rockwell Smith has evidenced an impressive long-term commitment to his craft, and is surely on his way to making an impact among his contemporaries.

### **Lithograph on Paper**

This printing technique uses a planographic process in which prints are pulled on a special press from a flat stone or metal surface. The surface has been chemically treated so that ink sticks only to the design areas, and is repelled by the non-image areas. Lithography was invented in Germany in 1798. The early history of lithography is dominated by great French artists such as Daumier and Delacroix, and later by Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Braque and Miro.

Based on the principle that oil and water repel, a Lithograph is created when an artist produces an oil-based or pen image on a stone or piece of metal. This surface is then moistened and covered with an oil-based ink. The resulting chemical reaction between the oil and water drives away the ink on the surface except where the drawing was first done. Fine quality paper is then placed against the surface and a lithographic press is used to create the print. Modern technology and processes have provided artists with many unique methods with which to create magnificent lithographs. In the 1890s color lithography became enormously popular with French artists, Toulouse-Lautrec most notably of all, and by 1900 the medium in both color and monotone was an accepted part of printmaking, although France and the US have used it more than other countries. George Bellows, Alphonse Mucha, Pablo Picasso, Jasper Johns, David Hockney and Robert Rauschenberg are a few of the artists who have produced most of their prints in the medium.

As a special form of lithography, the Serilith process is sometimes used. Serilith are mixed media original prints created in a process where an artist uses the lithograph and serigraph process. The separations for both processes are hand drawn by the artist. The serilith technique is used primarily to create fine art limited print editions.

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