

***The Last Outpost, 1983, by Llyn Foulkes***  
**Study Paper by Joe Garcia, 2017**



**The Last Outpost** by:

**Llyn Foulkes**, American (Yakima, Washington) 1934-Present

Palm Springs Art Museum purchase with funds provided by the Contemporary Art Council, 1989,

**Medium:** Mixed media assemblage

**Work Completed:** 1983, Los Angeles, California

**Art Work Time Period:** A Western/Modern/POP style is reflected in the artwork by combining all three elements with the West, Cowboy and Mickey Mouse. This work also leans more modern because it reflects on the American Dream, iconic pop icons and has a touch of Hollywood in its overall aesthetic and meaning. Some also say his style of art leans more on the abstract expressionism side but is way more representative, figurative and metaphorical.

***The Last Outpost*** is about the American Dream, the lost dream and delusional fantasies gone wrong. The piece is somewhat of a memorial for these themes. Many describe this work as a “threnody”. (Please read poem on third page) This is the case for a lot of Llyn’s works of art. The death of the cowboy shot by a young boy in the picture, Mickey Mouse in Old West drag reflects a modern time where younger generations have no time or use for old fashioned myths or tales. It’s the death of those values. This work also captures delusion, anger & nostalgia in one quick read. When you first glance at this work, you smile because a lot of the nostalgic icons in the piece remind you of a happier place but then when you start really focusing on the colors and detail of the piece up close you quickly realize that this piece is a lot more in depth and darker than what it seems. I chose this piece of art because I wanted to know why Llyn placed beloved Mickey Mouse in the work and the meaning behind the other characters in the picture. The fact that he married one of the head animators at Disney Studios while Walt Disney was alive also influenced him very heavily placing one of America’s most beloved icons in a lot of his works. His nostalgic approach to art and how he draws in his audience by instantly placing familiar iconic themes makes you want to find out more about the art even if the underlying message seems way darker. His excellent use of dimension and mixed media in this piece really makes this work one of his best in my opinion. I also strongly believe this is why PSAM probably bought it in the first place. Bravo Llyn!!!

**Written by:** Joe Garcia, Provisional Docent, December, 2016

**Resources:** [www.llynfoulkes.com/](http://www.llynfoulkes.com/)

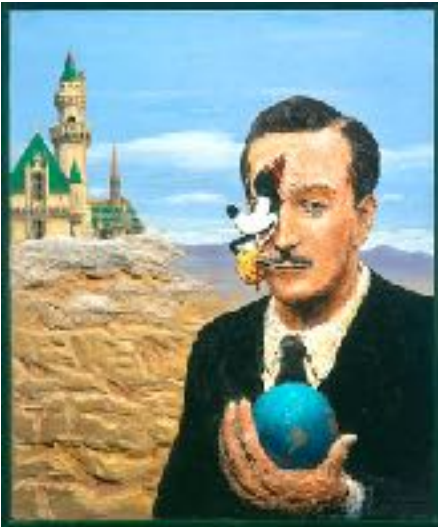
[www.thehammermuseum.tumblr.com/](http://www.thehammermuseum.tumblr.com/)

[www.psmuseum.org/](http://www.psmuseum.org/)

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*Llyn at an earlier age.*



*Uncle Walt, 1995.*

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

- He married Kelly Kimball one of the famous Disney Studios Head Animators.
- Considered to be the one of the early fathers of Modern Pop (even before Andy Warhol) art with his iconic piece called "Cow". Andy Warhol admired this piece several times before making his own version of a cow painting.
- The Hammer Museum had a Llyn Foulkes Retrospective in 2013.
- Made a documentary film called "Llyn Foulkes One Man Band The Most Famous Artist You've Never Heard of with music written and performed by Llyn Foulkes.
- He was always shocked and astonished at how Disney brainwashed the masses of kids and childhoods of America.

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YOUNG BOY BY LLYN FOULKES: THIS *POEM* IS INSCRIBED BEHIND "THE LAST OUTPOST" AND IS A "TIE IN" TO THE ART WORK ITSELF...

**YOUNG BOY**

My father told me if I ate my vegetables and cleaned my plate  
That I could be a cowboy like the Lone Ranger.  
My mother told me if I took my medicine and read my book  
That I could be a cowboy like the Lone Ranger.  
I got a rifle, I got a pony, my mother said I could play outside if I  
Finished my macaroni.  
I shot the postman in the head and rode away 'cause he was dead  
Then I sang a song just like the Lone Ranger.

**YOUNG MAN**

I've been a cowboy ever since the age of ten  
And I've been out mendin' fences since I can't remember when,  
I never thought that a cowboy was a guy who rode the range  
I guess I'll have to go out further west to change.  
Southern California is the place I ought to go,  
Where the cowboys yip and coyotes howl and they all make a lot  
Of dough,  
Southern California won't you wait for me  
It's the only place where a cowboy can really be free.

**OLD MAN**

Now that I have been upon the silver screen it doesn't really mean  
That I am a cowboy.  
I wish that I were only ten it was so simple then to be a cowboy.  
You could ride the western range it never seemed to change it never  
Was untrue.  
You could hide beneath the stars and shoot at passing cars like real  
Cowboys do.

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