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About the cover

The featured cover is a 26" by 26" oil painting titled "Chook, Chook, Chook" by Krystii Melaine. The name of the painting comes from the Australian word for chicken and "chook, chook, chook" is a common way of calling chickens. The artist was born in Bairnsdale, Victoria, Australia and studied painting, graphic design and photography at the university and under Graham Moore, the noted Australian master of tonal realism. She won her first art competition at the age of seven and was selling her paintings by the age of fourteen. She is the recipient of numerous international awards and commissions, and her paintings are held in museum and corporate collections. Krystii's bold compositions project the amazing power of life with strength and conviction, combining accurate details with painterly brushstrokes. In 1998 she first visited the United States, where she was deeply inspired by the American West. Her paintings of domestic and wild animals and birds and of Native Americans and cowboys have garnered many awards and are on display at museums and galleries across North America. Krystii Melaine currently makes her home with her husband, Michael, in Spokane, Washington and can be reached through the Hayden Hays Galleries at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO (www.Haydenhaysgallery.com) where this painting hangs and through the Biltmore Galleries, Inc., in Scottsdale, AZ (www.biltmoregalleries.com).