**ARTIST STATEMENT**

**SCOTT GOETZ**

Born and raised in Wyoming; I attended the University of Wyoming and received a B.S. in History. I competed in bareback riding as both an amateur and professional rodeo cowboy. I apprenticed in Cody, WY with a leather-smith during the early part of my rodeo career. This was where I received the foundation in leather-smithing that I have built upon over the last 20 years.

I have worked at several museums during my career where I had an opportunity to study historic cowboy trappings.

My work today, reflects the diversity of my background. I have tried to combine some of the flash and fancy of the rodeo world with more traditional western designs and patterns.

I create split and herring bone basket stamp patterns accented with rawhide appliqué and silver spots. These more traditional styles are highlighted with hair-on under-lays and rodeo style shapes. The finished products are truly unique on-of-a-kind pieces.

I have also incorporated embroidered underlay in much of my custom work. Embroidered is reflective of early southern California gear makers.

Several years ago I began to explore the world of silver-smithing. The reason for this was to create pieces that were all mine. I have worked out a process that starts with a stamped or carved leather pattern and ends in cast silver pieces that reflect the look and feel of the leather.

I use only Herman Oak tooling hides for the consistency of the grain, quality of the product and the consistency with which the hides take color and finish. I hand select the best chap hides from a variety of sources to I can ensure the color and quality I want to create the best possible pieces. The finish on all of the tooled pieces is a three-step process using products that I have experimented with during my career and have found to give the look and quality I want.

My personal goal is to continue to learn, create and refine my work. In the end, I hope to be regarded as one of the truly best; someone who put themselves, their experience, their pride and their heart into each and every piece.