



**CTV News Feature**  
**Calgary, Alberta, Canada**  
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**News Anchor:** There is a new kind of art at this year's Stampede: Michael Markowsky is showcasing *his* take on 'Western Art.' As Kevin Rich reports, his paintings offer a new perspective not usually seen at the Stampede.



**Michael Markowsky** [pointing at a painting]: At different times this creature looks like a bull, a ram or a buffalo, and I kind of like that it's transforming or that it has magical potential.

**Journalist:** When Michael Markowsky was asked by the Calgary Stampede to join the *Artist Ranch Project*, he jumped at the opportunity. His artwork is anything but traditional, but that is exactly why the Stampede wanted him.

**Michael Markowsky:** The Stampede is trying to broaden the idea of what 'Western Art' can be, as well broaden the audience for 'Western Art'.

**Journalist:** The *Artist Ranch Project* took him to the Cross Ranch southwest of Calgary. There he followed Bill Cross and ranch hands. He came away with images of bulls and cowboys in a rainbow of color.

**Michael Markowsky:** Bill Cross took us everywhere on his property! They herded the steers and cattle for us, and the whole time we were sketching and drawing.

**Journalist:** Markowsky's style is soon going to take him a long way from the farms and ranches Southern Alberta. He was recently named Canada's new 'War Artist.' A trip to Afghanistan is only three months away.



**Michael Markowsky:** I'm *incredibly* honored to have the opportunity to go out there and document the experience of our troops.

**Journalist:** Michael's 'Western Art' has been critically acclaimed by cowboys. He's already sold half a dozen pieces. He says he enjoys watching cowboys argue over which painting they like better. Kevin Rich, CTV News, Calgary.