

THE TIMES

Western Heritage Awards 2023: Images from 'real Yellowstone' win prize



The storm: "In this part of the world, storms come with no warning," writes the photographer Anouk Krantz in her book *Ranchland: Wagonhound* from Images Publishing

ANOUK KRANTZ

The bestselling book *Ranchland: Wagonhound*, by the French photographer Anouk Krantz, celebrates the cowboy culture of the United States and in particular Wagonhound, one of its largest historic working ranches. It won the best photography book of the year prize at the Western Heritage Awards.

At more than 300,000 acres, the Wagonhound ranch is very much a real-life Yellowstone, and has been praised by Taylor Sheridan, the creator of the hit television show of the same name.

Krantz's photographs tell a story of the rancher and his relationship with the land. Catherine and Art Nicholas, who have owned Wagonhound since 1999, take the stewardship of the land seriously, Krantz said, utilising conservation methods to ensure a balance between the land, livestock, farming and wildlife.

"As I continued to travel across the American West, it was a true privilege to photograph the majestic beauty of Wagonhound in Wyoming," Krantz said. "As I was transported here from the hustle and bustle of a fast-paced life at home, I found myself far removed, standing before a vast expanse of ranchland that rises to the Laramie foothills that ascend to the great Rocky Mountains."

Krantz was born and raised in France. She moved to New York in the late 1990s and following college worked at Cartier's North American headquarters. She later studied at the International Center of Photography and has developed several notable bodies of work, including Wild Horses of Cumberland Island (2017), West: The American Cowboy (2019) and American Cowboys (2021). Her work has been praised internationally and has appeared in prominent galleries and museums. Ranchland: Wagonhound is her fourth book.



Cattle drive: "Every autumn, Wagonhound cowboys gather their cattle in the mountains to bring them down to the range. This weeklong cattle drive can only be done on horseback across 60 miles of rugged terrain in unpredictable weather while sleeping in tepees or tents deep in the mountains"

ANOUE KRANTZ



Half-time: "These cowboys treasure their freedoms, surrounded by stunning landscapes and others who share the same values"

ANOUK KRANTZ



Krantz's photographs of the cowboy and cowgirl have been praised by Jon Pardi, the country music star, and Taylor Sheridan, the creator of Yellowstone

ANOUK KRANTZ



Western sunrise: "The cowboys set out at first light and come home as the moon rises," observes the travel writer Gretel Ehrlich in Ranchland

ANOUK KRANTZ



Legacy: "Their passion for this way of life is often passed to their children, who will join the cattle drives and work alongside several generations of cowboys. Their family and community are their source of strength"

ANOUE KRANTZ



Wyoming blizzard: "Cowboys will work in snow, rain, wind and heat. This is the life they love — in all its glory, anguish, gritty determination, uncertainty and hard work"

ANOUE KRANTZ



The sort: "Calves are sorted in temporary pens to get branded. As quickly as the enclosure is set up, it is removed, and mother and calf are reunited to graze in the vast pastures"

ANOUK KRANTZ



Rambo: "Out West, rider and horse are one — a bond that is essential to the spirit of the American West"

ANOUK KRANTZ



Bucks on the hillside as Wyoming skies darken ANOUK KRANTZ



Wyoming blizzard II: Krantz quotes Franklin D Roosevelt for this image: "It was a fine, healthy life. It taught a man self-reliance, hard work and the value of instant decision"
ANOUE KRANTZ



American rancher II: "Cowboys cherish their freedoms and live largely in the shadows, far removed from our world's collective consciousness"
ANOUE KRANTZ



Cowboy weaver: "During their free time, some cowboys enjoy traditional weaving, leather making and silversmithing — tools that help them in their daily work"

ANOUE KRANTZ



The brand: The historic ranch brand simulates the hand-forged wrought-iron device and was registered in Wyoming territory before statehood was granted in 1890

ANOUE KRANTZ



"The beauty of this ranch stands against the heresy of human aloofness, indifference and arrogance," writes Ehrlich in the book ANOUK KRANTZ



Rambo II: "Although horses, just like humans, will learn skills throughout their lifetime, it takes four to five years for Wagonhound to train its ranch horses" ANOUK KRANTZ

Link:

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