



Charles M. Russell

Charles Marion Russell, the famous cowboy artist, would much rather ride on the back of a horse than on a ship. He was on the way to an art show in London when he moaned the ship was doing the tango the whole way there and he never got his "sea legs." Charlie Russell was important because of his paintings, sculptures and life.

Charlie Russell's paintings preserve views and things he has seen or heard of. The painting *Lewis and Clark on the Northern Colombia* tells of a meeting between Lewis and Clark's expedition and a Native American tribe. It also shows Sacajawea, their guide talking to the Native Americans. He once spent a few months with the Blood Indians and learned much about them. He also learned how to draw them without offending them or making them look dangerous. He also did the correct clothing and patterns of the Native Americans. Such as the many famous buffalo hunt paintings. Charlie also painted things from hunts, encounters, and things that are not healthy in the environment. My favorite painting is *Charles M. Russell and his friends*. I like this painting because it shows his cowboy and Native American friends as well as the beauty of the west in the background and Charlie himself in the foreground. I like it because it explains all of his paintings and why he painted them.

Charlie's sculptures are made with extraordinary detail. Many were carved out of beeswax. If he ran out, he scooped up clay or mud. He would sit by the fire and tell stories while sculpting small animals and other things. He has sculpted people and horses and even boats. The famous sculpture *Charlie Himself* is a self-sculpture that a friend of his asked him to make. *Charlie himself* shows the sash on his waste and the tilt of his hat. When Charlie was young, he would tempt friends with the sculptures to do his homework. My favorite sculpture he made is *Stagecoach*, which is a sculpture of a team of horses harnessed to a stagecoach hurtling down a path. I like this sculpture because it shows the rocky terrain of the west and one of the differences from the east settlers may face.

Charlie Russell's life revolved around his artwork and the American west. He was born on March 19, 1864. He dreamed of the west and read many books about it. He did not like school much and would skip school to go down to the dock where the steam boats would come down from the west to talk to the cowboys and workers to listen and draw their stories. When he was sixteen, he headed westward to Montana to work with a friend of the family, Pike Miller, as a sheep herder. He was not very good at this job because he liked to sit around and sketch instead of chasing the straying sheep. Miller eventually fired him. Charlie was living in poverty until Jake Hoover, an experienced trapper hired him as a night wrangler. Charlie liked this job much more because he would stay up to watch the horses and draw and sleep for a little while. Charlie's first taste of publicity started during a particularly bad winter. The boss sent a letter wondering how the weather had deteriorated the cattle. Charlie drew *Waiting for a Chinook* in which shows a starving cow surrounded by hungry wolves. The owner showed it to friends and business acquaintances and eventually hung it up in his own shop window. In 1895 Charlie married Nancy Cooper in 1895. Nancy was willing to make the most of his talents. He started exhibiting his art in 1911 and traveled all over the world exhibiting his paintings and sculptures. Charles Marion Russell died on October 24, 1926.

Charlie Russell was important because he preserved the west through his painting and sculptures. You can tell what might happen next in his paintings. He could actually make you believe you were standing there witnessing the exact same events he did. Charlie Russell was the cowboy artist that helped us understand Native Americans and what it might have been like back then.

Charlie Russell took the West and put it in his paintings while being a cowboy. As a child Charlie's life long dream was to be a cowboy and he achieved that dream. The West was changing and he didn't like it so he painted it. Charlie wanted us to see what the West was like back then. Russell loved to paint what he heard or saw. Charlie Russell is important because he took the Wild West and transferred it to his art for us to admire. Charlie Russell's Wild West got redone in a different way.

One reason Charlie Russell is important is because he took the Wild West that was changing, and transferred it to his art work and displayed it for us to admire. He did this because the West was changing and he didn't like it, so his idea was to paint it. As Russell grew older he started to dislike modern changes like telephones and cars, (skunk wagons,) so he painted what it was like back then. Charlie Russell painted the West as it was.

Another reason why Charlie Russell is important is because he wanted us to see what the West was like back then. While he fulfilled his authentic cowboy life in Montana, he was also gifting the world with wildlife, western culture, and landscapes that he created in more than 4,000 paintings recorded. In the Old West when Charlie Russell was alive, all he saw was a wide open landscape with only two or three cabins in sight. One painting in particular is *Wagon Boss* in the background you can see a little town and really just a lot of wide open spaces. In the foreground it has a wagon train that has probably been traveling most of the West. Whereas nowadays you see houses, towns, fences, corals, and water tanks. Back then the West was changing so he wanted us to see what it was like then.

The last reason Charlie Russell is important is because he liked to paint what was around him. Originally from St. Louis, Charlie moved West when he was 15. When he left he experienced many things and painted them. He was working for a sheep herder and soon got fired, after that he met a mountain man named Jake Hoover and he took him under his wing. Russell lived with him for two years and painted lots of wildlife. He later left and went to a cattle outfit and became a night herder which gave him the perfect opportunity to paint or draw during the day. After marrying Nancy Cooper he remembered seeing things. Russell was so good at what he was painting because he lived it. In all of Charlie's paintings he adds so much detail, and especially in the painting *Piegans*. The amount of colors, the design on the moccasins and clothing, and even the sunset in the background is mistakenly real. Seeing more gave Russell more things to paint or draw.

Charlie Russell transferred the West to his artwork for us to see. Charlie Russell wanted us to see what the original West was like. He loved to paint what was around him, and the West was changing so he painted it. Charlie Russell harnessed the original West and put it in his artwork.

## **Why Charlie M. Russell is Important**

**By Ryleigh Gresham**

In Charlie Russell's childhood he always dreamed of being an artist, art was always a part of his life. When he was growing up in St. Louis, Missouri he would draw sketches and make art out of clay and bronze. He had an interest in the wild west and he would spend hours reading about it. Russell would watch explorers and fur traders who frequently came through Missouri then he learned to ride horses at Hazel Dell. When Russell was 16 he wanted to go to Montana but his parents would not let him so he begged them to let him go to Montana so they finally let go thinking he would be back in a year. He went to Montana and he got a job watching sheep but he was making clay figures instead of watching sheep. The guy that hired him did not like what he was doing so he fired him. Later on he got a job as a cowboy and his job was to watch the horses so they did not run off. When Charlie would come back he would sit by the campfire and pull out a clay figure.

When Charlie Russell was 18 he would start doing oil paintings. He also was famous for making bronze sculptures of horses, buffalo, Indians and cowboys on horses. He painted so many paintings that he painted over 2,000. In the paintings that he has you will see Indians, cowboys and wildlife. He would also sculpt things out of wax, clay, and bronze. After a bit he started to move to oil painting. He also did poetry with his wife.

Charlie Russell is important because he would capture the wildlife in his paintings. He was such a good artist he painted so many paintings he painted over 2,000 paintings. He did bronze sculptures and clay sculptures. Russell wanted to capture wildlife like bison and elk herds. He wanted to paint what he dreamed about the west and what it has become. Russell wanted to make it so people would feel connected to the west.



## Charles M. Russell's life

Charles M. Russell is an extraordinary influencer as well as an amazing storyteller. He uses paintings to tell stories rather than just words. Charlie shows us what Montana looked like before the skunk wagons were around. He changed some people's view of life.

Charlie's art was, and still is breathtaking to look at. He shows the beauty of the west through just his hard work and dedication, and has inspired me, along with a major amount of other people too. Charlie wasn't normal, to me, he didn't just make art, he made a special connection to people's hearts.

What makes his artwork so interesting and inspiring is how he makes me think about life in the nineteen hundreds. Just imagine walking out and seeing beautiful deer, buffalo, and an untouched landscape. Now, a lot of times you walk out and there are buildings and dirty, polluting cars.

One thing I love about Charlie is that he was a friend to the Native Americans. I have a friend that is a Native American. He thought of the Indians as kind and loving people that cared for nature. Also he incorporated the Indians into a lot of his paintings because he was so inspired by the Indians and their ways of life.

Charlie rode on his horse all over the place, so maybe he rode on my farm! I feel a connection to him because I live on a farm and love to hear stories about the Native Americans long ago. It's fun to think about how Charlie may have walked on the place where I'm standing right now. He was a famous cowboy, artist, and a kind person to tons of people. Now that's a person to remember!

Charlie has taught us so much about life. He taught us that when things get tough, you can still succeed, and how to care about other people. In his painting "Last of His Race," it shows a poor Indian that dreams of more buffalo while a wealthy looking girl rides a bike. Sometimes you need to think of others, and that's what he taught me. In my opinion, that's why Charlie M. Russell is important.

## Ah-Wah-Cous

Hi, my name is Charles Marion Russell. I am a very famous artist. I am going to be taking you on trip with me to see what I do during my day. Today, I am going to visit the Blood Indians because we are good friends and have not talked for a while. They inspire my work. Then I will sit around the campfire and tell my friends about my childhood and what made me want to come to the west. To end my day I am going to tell you about my unique western art skills.

I had a very good relationship with the Indians. I am very important because I painted the Indians in a positive light. In the painting "Indian Hunters Return" I show the Indian hunters bringing food (buffalo meat) to their families. In addition to a lot of my Indian paintings I tried to show all aspects of their life. Undoubtedly living with the Indians made an impact on my art.

I had an interesting childhood. I had a learning disability and did not like school so I would go down to the river and listen to explorers, fur traders, hunters, and mountain men. Listening to them made me want to go west. It helped me tell stories with my art. I had begged my parents until they let me come to Montana. On my way to the west I found a buffalo skull and that is how I knew I had made it to the west. I got a job as a sheep herder and I got fired after I let the sheep wander away. I went homeless after my first job was lost. Despite this I met Jake Hoover who taught me how to survive in the wild. Even though I had been taught those skills I still lived with Jake for two years. I was able to observe nature up close. It made me a better artist. My animals began to look much more realistic and I saw scenes that I would draw back at the cabin.

My western art is quite famous. I am the first artist to live most of my life in the west and I am well-known for painting the west as it really was, before fences, the railroad and other progress changed the landscape. My paintings are full of details that are unique to the west, like mountains, wild animals and cowboys. My signature symbol is a buffalo skull, which to me signifies the west. I also tell stories in my paintings, and sometimes I leave out the ending. I do not like to show technology in my art. To me it has to be the "Old West".

Today's events really made me think about my next works. I learned a great deal about the Indians from my visit, I got ideas from telling stories with my good old friends and last, but not least, I was remembering scenes of past years. It even felt good to talk about myself. I hope you learned something from my day.

Charles Marion Russel is an important artist in Montana history. He showed people that you do not need to have a lot of experience to do art. He also showed people that you need to practice at something to get good at it. Charlie left behind a legacy of sculptures and paintings depicting Montana wildlife and landscapes.

Charlie was born on March 19, 1864 in Oak Hill, Missouri. His parents' family business was making clay bricks, but Charlie wanted to follow his calling, which was art. Charlie had assistance from artists: Catalin and Bodmer. Charlie would sometimes skip school to go to the steamship yard to talk to cowboys, fur trappers, traders, and explorers. Charlie skipped school because he had a learning disability called dysmorphia which is why he had trouble learning. Charlies' parents made him go to the New Jersey Military School. However, in 1880 when Charlie was 16 his parents let him go to the American West.

Charlie started in St. Louis and made his way up to Redrock, Montana. Then he moved on to Helena where he met a man named Pike Miller who gave him a job as a sheepherder. However, he was not good at his job, so Pike Miller fired him. Charlie found himself homeless at age 17. Soon after, Charlie met Jake Hoover and befriended him. Charlie learned about the anatomy of animals from Jake. For 11 years, Charlie worked as a night wrangler. Charlie liked his job as a night wrangler because he got to do art during the day and take care of the saddle horses at night.

Charlie met Josephine Trigg and they became friends. At Christmas time Charlie would give Josephine a painting and Josephine would give him a book. Then in 1895 Charlie met Nancy at a dinner. They later got married in 1896 when Charlie was 32 years old and Nancy was 18 years old. Before Charlie got his studio, he worked in his living room. Charlie got his studio in 1903. He had to work other jobs before he became a world famous artist. As a result of his hard work, Charlie built his house in Great Falls, Montana. He built it for 800 dollars. It was one of the first houses to have electricity and plumbing in the city. In 1916 Charlie and Nancy adopted a son named Jack Cooper Russel. On October 29, 1926 at 11:00 Charlie died because he was having trouble breathing.

Charlie is considered one of the best sculptors of all time. He was recognized for his horse, people, and wildlife sculptures. If you look closely in his paintings you will see a buffalo skull next to his name. In 1893 Charlie quit his job as a night wrangler and became a full time artist. Charlie was asked to do a painting for the Montana Elk Club. However, The Montana Elk Club needed 1.2 million dollars to keep the painting. Donors donated 250 dollars per square inch.

Charlie loved the rugged outdoors in the west. You can see that through his paintings and sculptures such as, "Waiting For Chinook" and "The Exalted Ruler." I really enjoy living in Montana because of the outdoor activities like hiking, fishing and exploring new adventures.

Charlie once said "there is not a lifetime to see what I see in my head." He also said, "If I lose my hands I will learn to paint with my toes." Charlie had such a passion for art that he worked hard to keep his passion alive. I also love art because it is fun and I like to be creative. I am like Charles M. Russell because we both have a spirit of creativity.

Charlie Russell is a very famous artist and he is an influencer to many artists on the globe. Let me tell you about him!

Russell was born March 19, 1864 in St. Louis Missouri. Growing up Russell had dyslexia which is a condition where it is very hard to write, speak, spell, and read. By the age of five Russell loved drawing cowboys. Sometimes in Russell's hometown he would see fur traders and explorers. Russell had always been so interested in this stuff and he got especially excited when this happened.

By the time Russell was sixteen he moved out to pursue his dreams of becoming a cowboy, but ended up watching sheep. Russell was the worst at this job. He thought he was the worst because sheep would run off, and Russell would sketch instead of watching the sheep. Russell was fired and he thought he was hopeless, but a very nice man came and hired him as a night herder! Russell was thrilled, because not only could he be with real horses but he could also learn to sketch the horses to improve his drawing.

Throughout the years as Russell got older his paintings got better and better. Russell would say,

"Practice makes perfect!"

Of course he didn't make up the saying Vince Lombardi did. Russell knew what he was talking about, because the more he practiced his painting and sketching the better they got especially when he went on a trip to New York where he met more artists and learned more color techniques. His watercolors were way more vibrant after that trip.

On September 9, 1896 Russell married Nancy Cooper. They built their home in 1900 in Great Falls Montana. This was the first house to have indoor plumbing and working electricity in Great Falls.

Sixteen years later Charlie Russell and Nancy Cooper adopted a child. They named him Jack Russell. During the time they had settled, Russell created over 4,000 works of art. You can see nearly 2,000 of them in the Charles M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana.

On October 24, 1927 Russell died peacefully in his home because he had trouble breathing. He was 62 years old. Over all the paintings Russell made, the one I love most is Three Generations. Russell drew this in 1897 and I really think it shows how much fun different ages can have. The thing I love most about this painting is the way he painted the stream. He made it look like the stream was dancing in the sunlight, alive in the nice breeze of spring. I think Charlie Russell is important because he is an influencer to many young artists. Thank you, Charlie Russell.

Charlie Russell born March 19, 1864, in St. Louis Missouri, was great at telling a story in his art, so I will tell you some stories about him, and why he was important.

Charlie Russell was a kid who loved listening to stories about the West. He was a kid who disliked school because he had a learning disability but he loved to go down to the docks and listen to stories, much like how I like to listen to stories. Charlie was hearing about the West and he wanted to go there before it had modern day technology and before companies were working on developing it. Charlie thought that the West was so cool that he had to go and see it for himself to capture it. Therefore he begged his parents to let him go and they finally did.

Charlie went West around age 16 and had no money and food, so he had to survive. He got a job watching sheep, but he got distracted a lot looking at the bison and clouds, so he was fired. Then he met a man who helped him with learning how to survive and he, in turn, helped the man work. Finally, Charlie got a job as a cowboy and started on his art. Charlie would watch the horses and think of what to draw.

Charlie would draw the sky and things he saw in the West. He would tell stories to his cowboy friends and loved telling them, kind of like how I like to tell stories. He always had a piece of clay in his pocket and would mold it into beautiful sculptures. He captured things that no one could, and he was a great, great man. He was an artist of many different styles from sculpting to oil paintings. He would paint for beers and not make money, and that is where Nancy came into play.

Charlie could capture the West with bison, skies and horses. Charlie could also capture the Native Americans with their lives and their stories. One of my favorite paintings is the "The Fireboat". In the "The Fireboat" painting, Charlie shows a group of Native Americans trying to figure out what this boat is and it is worrying them. You can see that it is worrying them because of the way he can capture and paint facial expressions. Because of the way he captured these before they "died" we can understand what future settlers did to the West and Native Americans. Charlie told stories of the West through his sculptures, which show details of animals like bison and horses. He was also great at storytelling in his paintings. Charlie's paintings show details of facial expressions and emotions, almost as if he took a picture of the scenes. Charlie was one of the only artists who could capture animals and scenes like he did. I think that is one of the main reasons why people love his art.



*Bruushh!* This is the sound of Charles Marion Russell's paint brush on his canvas. Charlie, as friends and family would call him, was born in St. Louis Missouri. As a young boy the Cowboy Artist -as this is the title he would earn as an older soul- loved to make art with and on anything he could find. Though he didn't know at first he was going to be a very influential person throughout Montana. Charles M. Russell was an amazing historian through his art, storyteller, and a friend to all.

To begin with, Charlie is considered a historian through his art. He captured what life was like during his time alive. When Charlie finally got the chance and was allowed to travel to Montana he was thrilled. Charlie knew that things were changing, people were moving to the west and Europeans were coming over, and he wanted to document what things were like before all the change. He understood and empathized with the natives and knew that their life was changing. He observed and painted native tribes and their way of life. One piece of art that Charlie created shows the change that was happening and the differences they have. This piece of art is called *Mothers Under the Skin*. Another thing he documented was the way of cowboys in the Wild West and it is some of his most well-known art. His historian being is shown in most all his art and many people can see and learn from it today.

In addition, Charlie is known to be a great storyteller. He told stories at his cowboy job, but he also told amazing stories through his art. Charlie's art told stories through their realistic detail and the way he uses his utensils. Lots of time he captured moments in time. When a viewer looks at the detail, foreground, middle ground, and background they can gather clues to find the story that it is telling. One of Charlie's paintings that can tell a story full of action is *Bronc to Breakfast*. This piece of Charlie's has many details and if you look closely at them and find clues you can discover a story behind the piece. Many of Charlie's viewers have looked at his art and found an amazing story within.

Equally important, Charlie was a great friend to everyone. It is said that friendship was more important to him than his work. Before Nancy-his wife-came along to help him with business he would give out his pieces to people for free if they liked them. Also, Charlie had a great relationship with Josephine Trigg and her family. Josephine would read books to Charlie in his studio while he was working and it would sometimes spark his creativity. Also as he would do for others on special occasions, he would give a piece of art to Josephine, but then she would give him a book for his collection in return. Charlie as a great friend said "Good friends make the roughest trail easy."(48)

As you can see, Charles Marion Russell made a great impact on Montana's history. His love for art and his kindness has been respected, has inspired many, and this will hopefully carry on throughout time. Charles was an influential historian through his art, a storyteller, and a friend to all. So know that you know how Charles Marion Russell was important to Montana, why don't you learn all the rest of his lifetime story.

### Why is Charles M. Russell Important?

Have you ever wondered how people knew what our world looked like in the late 1800s when there was only black and white photography? We know because of Charlie Russell. Charles expressed our world during this time period with art, so that we can all appreciate what the planet looked like in color at this time in history. He wasn't only an artist, though. Charlie was so much more than an artist. Along with being an artist, he was a storyteller. His messages and stories that he put in his artwork not only educate us about the west, Native Americans, and overall history, but they also have an inspirational impact on other artists, specifically Western artists.

Charlie was immensely important to the Native Americans. He was one of the few who could acknowledge and see Native Americans for how they really were, as shown in the painting, *Mothers Under the Skin*. This painting gives people an idea of the mindset that Charlie had towards Native Americans, and I feel like the painting influences other people's way of thinking towards Native Americans because of the fact that Charlie saw past the stereotypes of them.

Charles was a role model for all artists, but especially Western artists. He found a way to be a cowboy and an artist, and to me, that is amazing. His artwork was phenomenal. He created an astonishing amount of sculptures, paintings, oils, and bronzes. He is a huge role model for Western artists because he never just created an art piece. He always added almost unnoticeable details into his artwork, such as in *The Exalted Ruler*. He had humor and he was thinking of what could he do to make his art better, and this shows the growth that Charlie had.

A big portion of the history of the West includes Charlie Russell. He could capture anything and everything he saw and convert it into art, as if he had a camera. Charles could just look around and see art. Charlie is a very important figure in the West's history because he was very inclusive when displaying the art of what he had observed, or imagined in the West. Even when he gained fame, he didn't let it overwhelm him. He always put friendship before fame and that is just an example of why Charlie is an incredible person.

Our world would seem bland without Charlie. He found a way to add more happiness into our world just by art. I feel connected to Charlie because we both enjoy painting art, and through Charlie's artwork he was able to put very clear messages. As I am improving as an artist, the more I learn about Charlie, the more I feel like Charlie is able to help me through becoming a better artist. He openly expressed the West's history, and showed the truth of Native Americans all through art, which encourages other artists, like me and Western artists, to keep trying and not give up on art, and what we believe in because we can do incredible things with it.

## The Importance of Charles M. Russell

Charlie is an important person for three reasons. He was an influential person, he had empathy for Native Americans and had extremely detailed art.

First, he was an influential artist. Charles had amazing talent as a young boy. He would sculpt little animals out of wax. Another thing this bizarre young boy did was steal wax from his sisters that they used for making flowers. Young Charlie did this to make little sculptures. When he ran out of wax he used clay from a brickyard close by. Mr Russell's art told amazing stories. When you look at his art you feel like you are actually there in the painting! Any man that can make a living doing what he likes is lucky-an im that charlie once said.

Next, CMR had great respect and admiration for Native Americans. Charlie often made natives the main idea of his paintings. Charles M. Russell was very empathetic toward native Americans. He also considered most of them his friends. In the book *Charles's Trail* by Gayle C. Shirley there is a picture painted by Charles called the buffalo hunt. In the picture there are three native Americans on white horses with amazing detail. The native Americans are hunting a herd of buffalo. The point is that he made the native Americans look so proud and fierce. Charlie is honestly a friend to all.

Finally, Charles used what he saw and knew in the real world in his art. He often painted natives, cowboys and horses. Charlie put detail and time into his work. His skills increased over the years. It became more realistic and detailed. He was also very good at putting detail into the background. Also in the book *Charles's Trail* by Gayle C. Shirley the painting named *Innocent Allies* it looks so realistic you can look at the picture and hear, smell, and see exactly what is going on in the picture. He was a phenomenal artist.

In conclusion, I think Charlie Russell was an amazing person. He was an artist, a friend and most of all an influencer. Both Charlie and I share an interest in art. What do you think about Charles Marion Russell and how much did you like learning about this very important man?

## Charles Marion Russell's Artwork

Charles Marion Russell is important because of how well he displayed his paintings' movement and makes you feel and live the stories he's trying to tell. Even if you can't imagine the world he was in when he painted, you can guess and try to find the imagination to feel his paintings. For me, I can smell and feel the stories about the West that Charlie wanted to tell people in the East. For movement, he was great at capturing the actions and things his characters did. He did this by dust clouds, or the way people were jumping and moving their arms and legs. That's why I think Charlie M. Russell is important.

Charles M. Russell is important because he's great at making you feel what's happening in his paintings. In *Prairie Fire* from PaintingMania.com (my favorite painting), I can feel the cold current of water the animals are walking through. Their fur is soaked, and I'm sure they're cold. I see them getting out of the water trying to escape the fire and I can hear the noise each animal is making. I can smell the smoke of the fire ruining everything in its path. It is toxic for the animals' lungs. That's why I think Charlie Russell is great at making you feel his paintings.

Charlie M. Russell can really capture the movement in his paintings. In *Bucking Bronco* from Pinterest.com, you can see that the scarf and hat of the cowboy are up. You also see his bottom flying up off the bronco. The bronco is completely off the ground and is in a jumping position. You can see that by the circular shape it's body is in. It's hair is flying all over the place. There are also clouds of dust around the cowboy and the bronco because they're jumping all over the place. That's why Charlie M. Russell is great at capturing movement.

Charlie M. Russell can speak to you from his paintings and show you what is happening. In *Elk In Lake McDonald* from PaintingMania.com, you can see the water ripple as the elks move around. It's from their feet shuffling around getting different spots to drink. There are little water lines coming down from one of the elk's mouth because he drank and lifted up his head to look around. I can feel the warm sunshine beaming down on me. The elks and their soft fur are rubbing against each other. Can you imagine being there happy as an elk, frolicking in the forest, feeling free and with no care in the world? I know I can. It makes me calm and very joyful. See what I mean? Charlie M. Russell is great at describing movement and feeling in his paintings.

Charlie M. Russell is important because he can tell a story through his paintings. He can describe movement and actions really well. He speaks to me when I look at his paintings. It's like a language only people who look really closely can understand. All you have to do is stand there, stare at the painting and listen. That's why Charles M. Russell was and continues to be important.





The Cowboy Artist and Chaz are both names that relate to one person. That person is Charles Marion Russell. He holds a very important role in Montana's history. CM Russell had amazing art, and was the social media of his time. He also had a different perspective on things such as nature, Native Americans, and horses. Charlie did and always will play a major role in history.

One of the many reasons CMR is important to Montana is because of his art. Along with many people I can feel his art. For example, one of my favorite paintings of his is *The Fireboat*. This is a painting of Native Americans looking down at a steamboat and thinking it's on fire. When I look at this painting I can feel the warm sunshine shining down on my face and smell the steam from the steamboat below. This is because of all the detail and color he uses in his paintings. Another amazing painting of Charlie's is *Waiting for a Chinook*. This painting shows a bull starving because of a tough winter they were going through. In this painting I can hear the howling wolves and feel the bitter coldness of the wind. Charlie's art and the way he created art was a very important part of history.

Another reason CMR is important to Montana is because he was the social media of his time. Back then there weren't phones or computers that people could look up information or pictures on. Charles created paintings and sculptures of what was going on in that time period rather than posting something on the internet like we do today. For example, if he hadn't painted pictures of Indians people wouldn't know about their lives and what they went through. When CM Russell painted he used so much detail that he told a story of what was happening during that time. Charlie didn't really want things to change. He greatly disliked technology. In fact, he called cars "skunk wagons"! CM Russell recorded Montana's history through his art.

Charles also had an important perspective. His paintings helped people view nature and Indians in a different way. Lots of people disliked Indians and thought they were a threat, but Charles knew they were good people. He had a different outlook on Indians and showed their beauty in his paintings. Charles was an advocate for the Native Americans and loved hearing their stories. The same thing goes with nature. CMR once said "Guard, protect and cherish your land, for there is no afterlife for a place that started out as Heaven". He enjoyed painting mountains and landscapes. That's one of the many reasons why he loved Montana. CM Russell loved horses. One of his jobs was to watch horses at night while the other cowboys were sleeping. As he once said, "You can see what man made from the seat of an automobile, but the best way to see what God made is from the back of a horse". Charlie's perspective on things was very important.

I could go on about why Charles Marion Russell played a huge role in Montana's history but I think the three main reasons he is important are because he created beautiful paintings and sculptures, he recorded Montana's history through his art, was kind to the Native Americans, and loved nature and horses. CMR will always be remembered as an important person in Montana's history.

C.M. Russell

You're sitting in a room with some friends, watching Charlie paint. The almost silent sound of the brush on the canvas is very calming. "Wow, how does he paint so well?" Your friend whispers to you. "I don't know, practice I guess. I wonder if he'll tell us why he started painting, that would be cool" You whisper back

Charles Marion Russell was a magnificent artist, mostly known for his paintings. He created some sculptures too though. He inspired many young artists today and in his time. His paintings had stories and symbolism in them, one of his paintings called "The Fireboat" was of three Native Americans on horses. They were on what I believe was a cliff looking into the river. There was a steamboat passing by and they seemed confused. There was smoke coming out of it and they know from experience, that smoke means fire, which is where I think the name "The Fireboat" came from. The painting symbolizes change.

Charlie was not only an artist, he was also a preserver. He is one of the reasons we can imagine what the old west was like. He preserved nature, the west, and most importantly, Native culture! He preserved the old west, he showed Native culture, he showed us nature, he showed it in his paintings, his sculptures, his art in general! He kept it safe, he let us see into our past. Charlie has preserved the old ways of life, and I thank him for that.

Not only was he a preserver and an artist, but he was a great friend. He was friends with the Natives Americans, Cowboys, and the people of Great Falls. And I guess you can count his wife, Nancy Cooper, as a friend too. Though they were obviously more than friends since they were married. He also was I guess friends with some of the kids since he let them into his studio, and they watched him paint. I wonder what it was like watching Charlie paint. I bet it would be really cool. One of his friends was Jake Hoover. Jake took Charlie under his wing and taught him about the ways of the wilderness. Jake was a hunter and trader, and Charlie was his apprentice.

This information proves that he was very important, not just because he was an artist, but he preserved the past, and was a friend to many. It's sad to read about his death, which was caused by heart failure. But now, tell me this... Why was Charles Marion Russell Important?

## The Importance of Charlie Marion Russell

Have you ever heard about Charlie Marion Russell? If you have not then you are about to find out who he is! Charlie was born on March 19, 1864, in St. Louis, Missouri. Growing up in Missouri, Charlie liked to sketch, and make clay figures or animals and more. The fact that he was so amazing at doing art at such a young age is astonishing in my opinion. In school Charlie would rather hide his work in a bush and go watch the cowboys. I like how he did not go to school but was successful with his art. He would have other boys do his homework, and he would pay them with his clay sculptures. Charlie had an intense interest in the wild west. At the age of sixteen, Charlie left, and went to Montana to work on a sheep ranch. I personally think that is a really young age to leave your family, and home. Charlie was not very good at watching the sheep, because he liked to sketch and draw instead. He got fired and met Jake Hoover, spending two years learning about Indians, wildlife, and Montana's past. To be specific, the Indians and Indian tribes Charlie learned about were Blood Indians, and Blackfeet Indians.

In 1882, by the age of eighteen, Charlie was working as a cattle hand, or a night herder. The harsh winter of 1886 and 1887, provided the inspiration for a painting that would give Charlie his first taste of publicity. The painting was called *Waiting for a Chinook*. According to stories, Charlie was working on the O-H Ranch in the Judith Basin of Central Montana, when the ranch foreman received a letter from the owner, asking how the cattle herd had done through the winter. I think being a night herder was the perfect job for Charlie because he then got the chance to observe, sketch, and document the activities and excitement of the cow camps.

As I mentioned, this was the painting that people first knew Charlie: it was, *Waiting for a Chinook* and it is a painting with a gaunt steer, or an ill and unhealthy cow, in an extremely harsh, and gloomy winter day. There are wolves surrounding the steer, waiting for it to die so the wolves can eat it. There are lots of realistic colors, Native Americans, cowboys, Native American events, and there are a lot of close up details. I personally think the painting is cool, but some people think that it is sad.

I think Charlie is important to Montana because he has inspired many people by making people want to do art, and to see nature differently. He used his art to tell stories that could have inspired people somehow. He also helped Montana in many ways.

In conclusion, I think that Charlie was an amazing person, a true cowboy, and an astonishing artist. I love how he changed the world with his art. I am glad that almost everybody in Montana gets the chance to hear about who Charlie Marion Russell is, and what he has done for Montana. Charlie is one of the most inspiring people I have ever heard about. I think that when someone gets the chance to know about Charlie, they take that chance, because I personally think he is one of the most important or inspiring people in the history of Montana. He has even inspired me, when I look at his art, I am able to use some of his colors for when I do art. I think everyone should take the time to appreciate Charlie Marion Russell.



Charles M. Russell

Charles M. Russell was a famous painter of western art. He was important to so many people, but lived a hard life and struggled in his personal life. His safe place was in art. It is how he communicated. He could not write very well, so he sent people paintings instead of letters.

Now, I can not tell you why Charles M. Russell is important to other people, my brain does not work that way. However, I can tell you why he is important to me. You see, I have autism. Charles had a disability too called dysgraphia and no one knew how to help him or what was wrong. He did not like school because he was misunderstood. He got in trouble all the time and people could not understand him. School was very difficult for him. I can relate to him. Our brains just work differently. He understood the world differently than others and the way he communicated was through art.

He inspires others because he helps them see into the past through his eyes, with his awesome brain. No one has ever seen the world the way he has and look at all the people that have fallen in love with him. He made them want to pack up and move to the west. His brain is the reason he was able to make all of these beautiful creations. He inspires me and has taught me that not in spite of, but because of his disability, he was important. He makes me feel like someday I could be important to a lot of people too.



### Why is Charlie Russell Important?

Charlie Marion Russell, funny, creative, and best of all talented. Charlie was more than important, he was monumental or significant. He had a talent beyond you and me. Charlie Russell's artwork showed Montana when the buffalo roamed, the Native Americans thrived, and the beauty that Montana is. Without Charlie Russell, Montana wouldn't be seen for its beauty.

If you take a look at some of Charlie Russell's paintings you might come across a painting with Native Americans in it. Back then, people thought the Native's were considered savages. Charlie thought differently, in fact he may have seen them as a role model. Charlie was very amused by how the Natives lived. In many of his paintings and models there is Native American culture. One of the paintings you can see this in is a painting by the name of *Waiting and Mad*. Charlie Russell believed that the Native Americans were the "only true Americans." Charlie Russell showed me that Native Americans had a beautiful culture. Because of Charlie Russell's paintings and models that showed Native Americans, we can see the Native's in a whole new light.

Charlie Russell's paintings also showed when buffalo roamed the prairie. In many of Charlie's paintings there are buffalo. It is rare to see buffalo nowadays. Normally you'd see a bison, which is like a miniature buffalo. So when you look at a painting with buffalo in it, you have Charlie Russell to thank for seeing what they looked like. Looking at one of Charlie's paintings of buffalo, makes me think about when they thrived. This is important because it shows us what it looked like in the Old West.

Montana is a beautiful place but it won't be like that when more cities are built. Well Charlie's paintings showed what Montana was like. All of the clouds, mountains, animals, captured in the moment of the picture. During Charlie Russell's time, new technology was coming to Montana. Charlie didn't like new technology. That's why most of Charlie's paintings show Montana when there were no fences. Charlie Russell showed me that Montana is beautiful just the way we found it.

Charlie Russell's painting showed when the buffalo roamed, the "only true Americans" thrived, and the beauty that Montana holds. Charlie inspired me to be a better artist. Charlie Russell is important to Great Falls because he showed us how beautiful Montana was in the past. Charlie Russell sadly died in 1936 October 24, but his art will live on forever in Great Falls, Montana history.

If you love art and love history then this essay was made for you and there might be a little surprise at the end of the story so stay tuned. What I will be talking about today is what Charlie M. Russell did during childhood, the next few facts are about his paintings, and last are basic facts about his life. I hope you like my story please enjoy it.

First, I am going to tell you about what Charlie M. Russell did and where he traveled as a kid. When he was a kid he mostly focused on sculpting and drawing, at the time he didn't have many art supplies so he used clay and sometimes stole wax from his sister and he always had a little clump of clay in his pocket. When he turned sixteen he moved to Montana because he was fascinated by the wild west and wanted to paint cowboys, animals, and maybe even Native Americans. He stayed in Montana for one year and one hundred eighty days. That is what happened in his childhood years in Montana.

Next, I will tell you about some facts about his paintings. Charlie M. Russell Painted 4,000 creations over his painting career and that was only his paintings. Charlie M. Russell had made 4,000 paintings and over 1million other sculptures, sketches, and colored drawings. He sold 2,000 of his paintings and much more of his sculptures, drawings and sketches. Charlie M. Russell had made 4,000 paintings and he sold 2,000 of his paintings and much more of his sculptures and drawings.

Last, basic facts about Charlie M. Russell. Here's some happy news: Charlie M. Russell was born on March 19th, 1864 in St. Louis Missouri and he was a very very healthy kid. Now here's a little sad news Charlie M. Russell died on October 24th, 1926 in Great Falls Montana. A Lot of people have been wondering how old Charlie M. Russell When he died, and how. He died of a heart attack and he left his family, he was sixty-two when he died. Now you know some basic facts about Charlie M. Russell.

I hope you've liked my story but I still have one more thing I was saving the best for last. Charlie M. Russell's best painting I think is called "Waiting for a Chinook." Now I am going to tell you about how I feel about Charlie M. Russell's paintings. One of his paintings that really touched me, it is called "The Cinch Ring". It's a picture of two cowboys that fell off of their horses and it reminds me of when I was five and I was riding a horse and it started bucking like crazy. I held on as tight as I could. The owner ran out to the horse and calmed him down. Thanks to that horse I haven't rode a horse since.

Charles Marion Russell was an amazing artist inspired by the west and songs. Charles made many paintings, sketches, and sculptures. He lived in Saint Louis Missouri until he was 16. Then he moved to Montana by trains and stagecoaches. He got a job as a sheep herder. He did not like watching the sheep, so they escaped and he got fired. Then Jake Hoover helped him and then at age 17 he was a cowboy.

Why is Charles Russell important? He is important because he was an amazing artist. He made over 4,000 works of art. He was called an "original cowboy artist." Charles would make a wax sculpture in his pocket while someone told a story. One thing that shows how talented he is is that he only had 3 days of art school. He also loved telling a story with his paintings.

Another reason why he is important is because he loved the west and Montana. When he saw the west was fading away he tried to save it. He did this by making art and showing people how beautiful the west is. Charles made friends with other artists and even Indians. He did not like modern things like cars, he called them skunk wagons. He always loved the west and when he got there he was amazed.

Here is a painting I think is interesting. It is called "The Exalted Ruler." It is an amazing oil painting. Charles made this painting in 1912. Once he finished he gave it to the Great Falls Elk Lodge. It hung there until 1985. The elk in the middle of the painting is the current "Exalted Ruler." "The Exalted Ruler" is the symbol for the president of the elk club. I think this shows how animals can be very close to humans.

Have you ever heard any of these facts about Charles Russell? In conclusion Charles Marion Russell is an amazing artist. I think this because to this day the west is still alive and that may be because of him. He did adopt a 3 month old son with his wife Nancy in 1916. He named his new son Jack. Charles Marion Russell died in 1926 on October 24. His wife and son moved to southern California shortly after. They had planned this before he died but he was supposed to come.

### **Charlie Marion Russell**

Charlie Russel was born on March 19, 1864, in St. Louis Missouri, art was always part of Russell's life. Growing up in Missouri , he drew sketches and made clay figures of animals. Russell had in intense interest in the "Wild West," dreamed of becoming a cowboy and living the exciting life of men on the range, and would spend hours reading about it. Russell would watch explorers and fur traders who frequently came though Missouri. He learned to ride horses at Hazel Dell Farm near Jerseyville, Illinois, on a famous Civil War horse named Great Britain. Russell's instructor was Col. William H. Filkerson, who had married into the Russell family. At the age of sixteen, Russell left school and went to Montana to work on a sheep ranch to try his hand as a cowpuncher. Before Charlie Russell died he told them to bring him to the cemetery in a wagon so they did that. Charlie died May 7 2018 Calgary, Canada.

### **The Reason Charlie Russell is important**

He inspired other people to do art in the old days and still to this day. He was a great person to other people and he was a good cowboy to help people. He wasn't that good of a good sheep watcher because he wanted to make art all the time. He would fascinate other people of how he would make sculptures in his pocket without looking. When you tried to take it he put it right back in his pocket and made another sculpture. Charlie was a friendly guy and he would make lots of friends and art lots of art so much where Nancy had to tell him to sell them. Nancy didn't know why Charlie didn't like anything modern. The reason Charlie is important is because he helps out communities and lots and lots of people. He would make so many friends and share laughs and hugs with friends and family.

### **Nancy Cooper Russell**

Nancy was born May 4 1878 Mannsville, Talor County, Kentucky, USA. Nancy died May 23 1940 age 62.



### Charlie Russell: The Western Painter

"Talent is like a birthmark, it's a gift and no credit nor fault to those who wear them," Charlie Russell once said. Charlie Russell is a famous artist and in his art he showed how the west was being changed through his masterpieces.

When Charlie was younger he couldn't do some of the stuff we can do. This was because he has a learning disorder called dysgraphia. Dysgraphia is a learning disability that made it so he could not write or spell properly.

When Charlie was 16 he would watch the boats on the docks and listen to the sailors tell stories about the west. After that he would go home and ask his parents to move out west, and one day, they said yes.

He rode a train to the west and when he got there he was offered a job watching sheep. Unfortunately he would daydream a lot and wouldn't pay enough attention to them. After that a man named Jake Hoover offered Charlie a job on his ranch, to watch the horses at night.

While Charlie was working on the ranch with Jake, he found a talent for art. At the time he was mostly known for making little statues in his pockets. He would sit by the fireplace and put his hands in his pockets, then he would pull his hands out holding a statue of a horse or a cowboy and everybody would be amazed by the detail because he wasn't even looking at what he was doing!

Charlie started making more and more art. One of his paintings called, *Waiting for a Chinook*, is one of his first paintings, and one of the paintings that got him known around the west. He met Nancy Russell soon after he became famous and they got married. Since Charlie had dysgraphia, Nancy was his business manager. One of my favorite paintings by Charlie Russell is, *Mothers Under The Skin*, this painting shows a native american mother and her baby looking up upon a white mother and her baby.

Close your eyes, imagine Charlie sitting in his studio. Nancy watches in wonder as he works his magic on the canvas, he strokes the brush back and forth, he puts the brush down, "*The Exalted Ruler*," he says. Charlie is very important in our history, he found an interesting way to show the past of the west- his art.

### Charles M. Russell

Do you enjoy history but you also like art? Charles M. Russell told stories with his art. He did not like school and would rather sketch and hear stories. Charlie came to Montana and eventually became a cowboy. He met Nancy and he became an all-time artist.

Charles M. Russell was a big artist in history and had an adventurous childhood. His life started in 1864 in St Louis, Missouri. Charlie was a boy with a disability of writing called Dysgraphia. This disability means not being able to write good. Charlie did not like school, but he loved hearing stories of the Native Americans. Charlie would hide his books and would go down by the shores of the Mississippi River. He would hear the stories of the Natives. He would talk to traders and cowboys just to find more information about the west. In his childhood he loved sketching and drawing. Charlie was a boy of natural talent.

At the age of 16, Charlie begged his parents to let him go to the west by himself. His parents wanted him to help them with the family business but Charlie did not. Charlie's parents tried sending him to a military school in New Jersey but nothing worked.

After that Charlie's parents decided to let Charlie go. To get to Montana he took a train to Utah, from there he took a train and then a stagecoach to Montana. In 1880 he got his first job as a sheep watcher by a friendly guy named Pike Miller. Charlie was not exactly good at this because he would sketch and do clay figures. Pike Miller didn't like that so he fired him. Charlie was homeless at seventeen. Days later he met a guy named Jake Hoover. Jake helped by giving Charlie a home and a job. Charlie would skin the animals and Jake Hoover would hunt. After working for Jake Hoover he got another job. He started working for Horus Brewster in 1882 and became a night wrangler and watched hundreds of horses at night and made art during the day. This job was his for eleven years.

One day Charlie went to a dinner with the Roberts family. He met a beautiful girl named Nancy. Nancy came from a poor family and dreamed of going to school. Nancy did not want to meet him because she knew him as a dirty cowboy and by his artwork. Little did she know that she would be laughing at Charlie's jokes. Time passed and Nancy and Charlie got married in 1896. In 1886-1887 the owners of the ranch Charlie worked on left to Helena. They asked how the cattle were doing because the winter hit hard. Later on instead of sending a normal card Charlie sent a watercolor note card now known as Waiting for the Chinook. Judith Capp the owner of the ranch showed around the note card. Later Charlie started being known as an artist. Later Charles became an all time artist. Nancy helped sell his pieces of art. Charlie passed away 1926 because of heart failure.

Charlie Russell is important because his story inspires us to be what we want to be. He never gave up. For example, he lost his job but kept working. His artwork can help us understand how Montana used to look without the roads and cars.