

2026

# COWBOY IN PART





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JOE DUTY  
2026 COLLECTION





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*“Know me through my  
images, for they speak the  
language that words  
cannot, they cannot lie, for  
they are from within.”*  
~ Ansel Adams

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ABOUT

## JOE DUTY

My best images come when I get to the photographic high — living through the lens and absorbing that world. When I do that, everything else disappears. It's almost as if I have blinders on to the world. It's the feeling I get when I hear the shutter, that all familiar sound — fingers wrapped around the right side of the camera, feeling the rubber; left hand on the simmering tension with the tip of the thumb and index finger; elbows locked in; fierce eyes... and just absorbing — doing my job.

This justifies letting everything else go, becoming one with my tool, actually becoming one with the world and myself, through my lens.

I was a photojournalist for over 20 years. My specialties include editorial/lifestyle photography, travel and sports. I am a PRCA Certified Photographer and enjoy shooting rodeo and western lifestyle images. I have a passion for beautiful places and travel photography. I've been published in numerous newspapers and magazines across the country.

I'm proud to have won awards including some from the Texas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, PopPhoto, Society of Professional Journalist, and 2003 Nikon International. Here are some of my accolades. Check out my blog to get a glimpse at how I go about capturing images and some of my thought processes,



# "THE MORNING STARE"

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There's a rhythm to this life that doesn't ask for attention—it just shows up, day after day. Captured at 9 Bar Ranch in Decatur, Texas during one of our workshops, this moment sits right in the space where work meets reflection.

The fire does more than warm the hands—it slows time, pulls the noise out of the day, and leaves room for thought. The cowboy here isn't posing. He's present. Every detail—the worn leather, the steady posture, the quiet focus—speaks to a way of life built on consistency, not convenience.

This is the part most people don't see. Not the arena, not the spotlight... but the in-between moments where the real story lives. Out here, nothing is rushed. The fire burns. The land breathes. And the code is simple—show up, do the work, and let the rest take care of itself.

# "ITS GONNA HURT"

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It's Gonna Hurt There's a moment in rodeo where everything gets real—and it happens fast. No time to think. No time to adjust. Just a split second where control is gone and consequence takes over. Captured in that exact instant, this image doesn't show the ride—it shows what comes after. The dust, the force, the undeniable truth of the ground meeting a man who just gave everything he had.

This is the part most people don't talk about. Not the cheers, not the score, but the cost. The risk that every cowboy understands before he ever nods his head. Because rodeo isn't about avoiding the fall. It's about showing up anyway. Every time.





# "COWBOY WATER BREAK B&W"

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Between the Lines, Not every part of the cowboy life is loud. Some of it lives right here—in the quiet, in the routine, in the space between man and horse where trust is built one moment at a time. Captured in black and white, this image strips away distraction and leaves only what matters. The arc of water, the lowered brim, the steady presence of the horse—it's not about action, it's about relationship.

There's respect here. Understanding. A bond that doesn't need words and doesn't ask for attention. This is the part that holds everything else together. Before the ride. After the work. In the moments no one's watching. Because long before anything else... there's the connection.

# "LASSO IN MOTION 3"

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Controlled Chaos, At first glance, it looks like chaos. Lines everywhere. Motion stacked on motion. A rope that refuses to sit still. But look closer... there's nothing accidental about it. Captured at Cowtown Coliseum in Fort Worth, Texas during a 101 workshop, this image freezes something most people never truly see—the precision inside the spin. Every loop, every arc, every movement is intentional. Practiced. Repeated until chaos becomes control.

The double exposure effect doesn't just show motion—it reveals the rhythm behind it. The timing. The feel. The understanding between hand, rope, and space. This is more than a trick. It's muscle memory turned into art. Because the cowboy way isn't about avoiding the chaos... it's about learning how to live inside it—and make it yours.





# "READY TO BRAND"

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Not every story is told in motion. Some of it sits right here—in the coals, in the tools left resting, in the heat that hasn't quite let go. This moment doesn't need a subject to feel alive. The fire still breathes. The iron still holds warmth. And just beyond the frame, life continues—unhurried, unchanged. Captured in a quiet corner of the ranch, this image speaks to the rhythm that happens between the big moments.

The work that doesn't get photographed. The pause that doesn't get noticed. Because out here, the fire isn't just for heat. It's part of the process. Part of the day. And when it settles down like this... it's not the end. It's just waiting for what comes next.





# "THE GATHER-UP"

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Before the smoke, before the irons, before the dust really starts to rise—there's this moment. Cattle gathered tight. Cowboys mounted and waiting. Everyone in position, whether they realize it or not. Captured at Nine Bar Ranch during branding day, this image holds the quiet tension before the work kicks loose. It's not still—but it's not moving yet either. It's that split space where preparation meets purpose. Every man here has a job.

Every horse knows its role. And every head of cattle in front of them is about to become part of something bigger than the moment itself. Branding day isn't just work—it's rhythm, tradition, and responsibility passed down without much talk. Because out here, nothing starts with noise. It starts with knowing where you stand... and being ready when it's time to move.





# "THE BIG PICTURE"

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This is where tradition stops being an idea... and becomes action. Captured at the Circle bar in West Texas, this moment holds the weight of something that's been done the same way for generations. No shortcuts. No substitutions. Just heat, timing, and a job that has to be done right. The smoke rises thick, carrying with it the smell, the effort, and the understanding that this isn't for show—it's for ownership, responsibility, and survival.

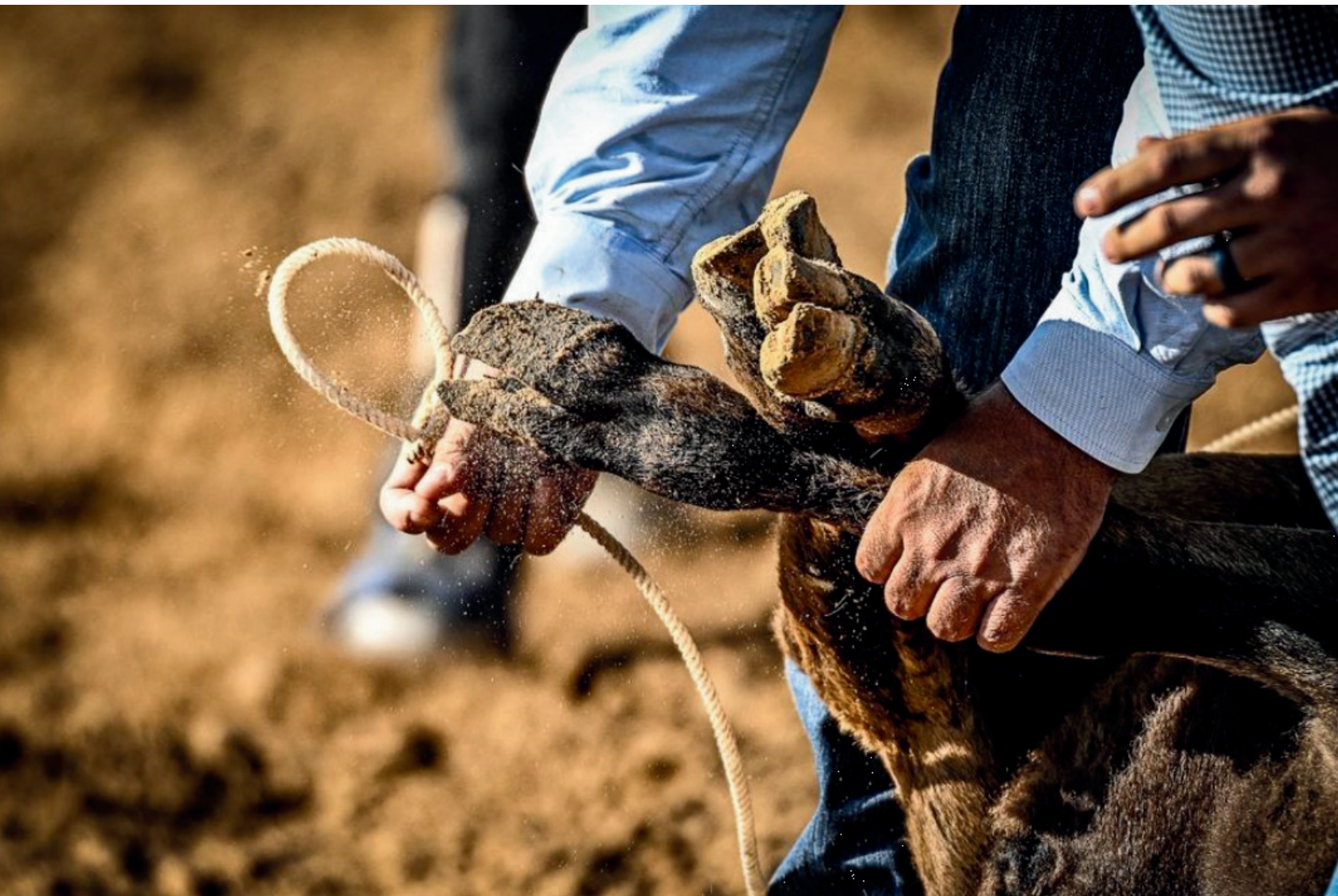
Every hand in this frame knows exactly what to do, and more importantly, why it matters. It's not easy to watch. It's not meant to be. Because this is the part of ranch life that defines it—the part where comfort steps aside and purpose takes over. Out here, the mark isn't just on the animal. It's on the men doing the work.

# "THE TIE"

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Every part has its moment. Not the whole story. Not the final result. Just one piece—held tight, done right, exactly when it matters. This is that moment. The rope is set. The hands are steady. Dust hangs in the air like it knows not to move yet. Everything narrows down to grip, timing, and control. No wasted motion. No second guessing. Captured in the middle of the work, this image strips the process down to its essentials.

It's not about the crowd or the outcome—it's about doing your part when your part is called. Because out here, nothing happens without this. The small, exact moments that hold everything together. And if you miss it... the whole thing comes apart.





## JOE DUTY'S UPCOMING EVENT

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The Texas Photography Workshops, led by Joe Duty, will take place from April 28 to May 3, 2026, at Nine Bar Ranch in Decatur. This immersive workshop offers photographers of all levels the opportunity to sharpen their skills through hands-on sessions, expert instruction, and real-world shooting experiences. Set in a scenic ranch environment, participants will explore techniques in composition, lighting, and storytelling while engaging in collaborative learning and constructive critiques. The event promises a balance of professional growth, creative inspiration, and meaningful connections within the photography community.





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