INSIDE Prix de West • Women Artists of the West • State of the Art: Oklahoma

Previews of Works For Sale at Upcoming Shows Previews of Works For

COLLECTOR



UPCOMING SHOW SHOW LOCATION KETCHUM, ID

Up to 12 works
June 15-July 5, 2015
Wood River Fine Arts
360 East Avenue, Unit 2
Ketchum, ID 83340

(208) 928-7728

James Morgan

Nature's bounty





R enowned wildlife and landscape painter James Morgan says the best pieces come to be with very little effort.

"Some days I'll come back from lunch and I'll wonder who came in and finished that brilliant painting. The ones you're least familiar with, and spend the least amount of time on, really come together nicely," he says. "Then there are others you have to fight with a little. Sometimes I'll put them away and sequester them, and then see them again much later. I was hoping it would get easier the more I worked, but I'm constantly coming up with new ways of interpreting what I see and that can be a challenge."

Morgan's "challenges" produce some of the most respected wildlife work being created today. His new pieces will be in a solo exhibition beginning June 15 at Wood River Fine Arts in Ketchum, Idaho. The show will include a variety of work the Utah painter is known for: landscapes, birds and an assortment of mammals—both predator and prey.

In High Desert Tail Wind, Morgan paints four pronghorn commonly found in Wyoming. His composition of the animals, their bodies and heads tilted downhill, matches the gentle slope of the ridge they are grazing on and creates a pleasing movement to the viewer's eye. In Freeze Up – Early December, he paints a bird refuge on the north end of the Great Salt Lake, which he uses as evidence that Utah is one of the most diverse states in the country.

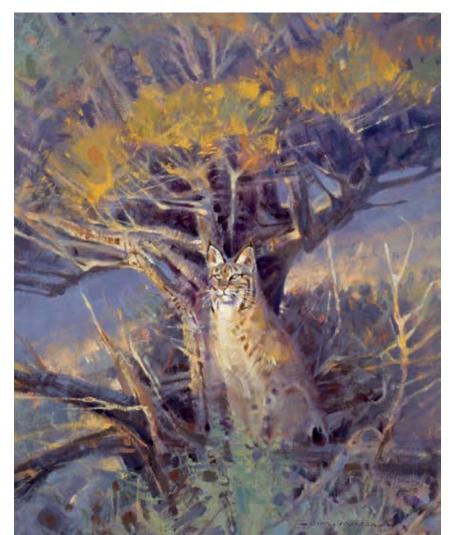
"From the deserts and the forests to the sub-alpine areas and high mountain valleys... Utah is incredibly varied and provides me with many things to paint and think about,"

Top: Freeze Up - Early December, oil on linen, 24 x 36"

Left: Clear and Cold, oil on linen, 30 x 48"



High Desert Tail Wind, oil on linen, 30 x 48"



he says. "With Freeze Up – Early December, I really like the harmony of the landscape and the wildlife. And if you remove the birds, it almost becomes an abstract painting."

A generation removed from Bob Kuhn and other great wildlife artists, Morgan says the genre is more relevant now than it ever has been. "With all the troubles birds and animals are having, it's absolutely vital," says Morgan, who is quick to point out that conservation is needed to ensure that future generations will appreciate his and other wildlife artist's subjects. "I have been spending more time out wandering to get ideas than in the actual studio making a painting, and I'm continuously impressed by nature and what it offers."

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to www.westernartcollector.com

The Observer, oil on linen, 16 x 12"