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Jim Hagstrom: "Paint what excites you. Listen to yourself. Keep loose and express how you feel with your art!"



I met Jim Hagstrom during the Art Walk in Billings April, 6. He has been performing live painting at Terakedis Fine Art Gallery. Jim is amazing artist so I am glad to introduce him to all of you

JBN: What's your background?

Jim Hagstrom: I grew up in Cody, Wyoming and after marrying my wife Lynne, we moved to Apache Junction, Arizona. In 2001 we moved our family back home to Cody. Both of these places have been an inspiration for my art. The beautiful landscapes and western lifestyles of both of these places have made a huge impact on my art.

JBN: How did you start making art?

Jim Hagstrom: I took an interest in drawing and later painting, in my teen years. To sharpen my skills I took a few art classes in College. But mainly I'm self taught as it has always come naturally for me.

JBN: Why do you make art?

Jim Hagstrom: I like to express myself with my art. I love to show my emotions on canvas and I want other people to feel that emotion.

JBN: Who are your biggest influences?

Jim Hagstrom: Norman Rockwell, Monet, William Leigh, Louisa McElwain, David Leffel, Howard Terpning

JBN: What inspires you?

Jim Hagstrom: All things in nature, other artists, museums, manmade structures and items.

JBN: What inspired this piece/idea?

Jim Hagstrom: All aspects of nature, people, creation inspire me to paint.

JBN: How have you developed your career?

Jim Hagstrom: Continually looking for new, fresh ideas to sharpen my skills. I take my art seriously and try to paint every day. Hoping that people take notice and enjoy my pieces as much as I do creating them.

JBN: Which current art world trends are you following?

Jim Hagstrom: I follow or should say I watch other artists with their styles through magazines, media and museums, but I try not to follow trends. My art and styles are mine and I try to keep it that way.

JBN: Tell us please about an artwork you are most proud of?

Jim Hagstrom: A large painting of my parents from an old photo that I found of them. It was taken approximately 1950. It is 72"x44". I used an artist knife to create the whole painting.

JBN: Why?

Jim Hagstrom: It has great emotional value to me because I feel that it records my parents love for each other before I even knew them. My wife will not part with it. She tells me that I can never sell it.

JBN: What is your most important artist tool?

Jim Hagstrom: A certain artist knife, brushes, a large antique artist easel.

JBN: Is there something you can't live without in your studio?

Jim Hagstrom: I would have a hard time to do without any of these items listed above.

JBN: Is there an element of art you enjoy working with most?

Jim Hagstrom: The element of how light effects a subject.

JBN: Why?

Jim Hagstrom: Light is a large contributor to the mood of a painting.

JBN: Do you like to work when another people look at you or you prefer privacy?

Jim Hagstrom: I enjoy privacy most of the time but occasionally I enjoy people watching me paint. I'm generally a quiet, shy person, but painting helps me relax around people.

JBN: What you work on now?

Jim Hagstrom: I have 4 easels, but normally I try to finish a painting before I move on to the next one. I'm currently working on a large Moose. 36"x48". I'm also working on a Rodeo painting. Tomorrow may be another painting. So, I work on various subject matter and styles or techniques. Sometimes Realistic, sometimes Abstract sometimes Impressionistic and sometimes Expressionistic. My art has changed over the years. Because of that, I feel that I develop a better quality of work and a better understanding of techniques of painting.



Nota Bene! Jim Hagstrom is an artist who lives and paints in Cody, Wyoming - his native hometown. His love for the area is evident in the subject matter of his artwork.

Over the years his personal style has had variations but they have always demanded people's attention. His unique and nonrestrictive style in compositions is achieved with both the palette knife and brush.

Many of his inspirations come from his surroundings. These include his highly textured "Desert Scenes and Indian Ruins" from Arizona where he lived for a period of time in his life. He includes, "Rodeo, Wildlife, Native Americans and Landscape paintings", which are so much a part of Wyoming.

Jim loves to venture out of his studio to investigate and capture the effects of sunlight and how different times of the day affect a subject. Wyoming is a perfect state to do this because of the beautiful, ever changing skies, mountains and high deserts. The changing light, cold and heat, blowing dirt and leaves all add to the emotion, energy and texture of his paintings.

Through the years his art has been shown in various galleries in Wyoming, New Mexico, Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho and Virginia. He has received many awards at various art shows through out his career.

Jim's art has been shown and featured in several nationally known magazines.

Cowboys and Indians 2004 and Western Horseman 2004. Southwest Art 2017.

Prominent collections—Dr. Biles, Dr. Wasserman, Jim Dager, Tom Quick (all From Wyoming) Bill Morse —(Colorado) Earnhardt Ford (Mesa, Arizona.)

Guiding Philosophy: Paint what excites you. Listen to yourself. Keep loose and express how you feel with your art!

