

2014 EDITION

COMPLIMENTARY

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THE GUIDE TO THE ARTS IN JACKSON HOLE



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Bottom: Jackson Hole artist Jennifer L. Hoffman paints Flat Creek and the National Elk Refuge from a piece of conservation property donated to the Jackson Hole Land Trust by Spring Creek Ranch.

Left: This is the painting Hoffman created that day. The 16-by-22-inch canvas is called *Blue Ribbon*.



Serene Scenes

Artists, Land Trust partner for View 22 project's second year.

By Jennifer Dorsey

Artists who paint the terrain of Jackson Hole need no reminding that the valley would look a lot different were it not for the Jackson Hole Land Trust's efforts to protect scenic vistas, open spaces, and historic ranches from rampant development.

Ask Jennifer L. Hoffman, who participated last year in View 22: Painting Jackson Hole's Open Spaces, a place-based art project that will continue this summer and fall.

"As an outdoor painter," Hoffman says, "I am constantly inspired by the beauty of the open spaces that won't be developed, the stands of forest that won't be cut down, the hayfields and ranches that will continue to remind us of the

heritage of our valley."

View 22 started as a collaboration between the Land Trust and the three artists who own Trio Fine Art—Hoffman, Kathryn Mapes Turner, and Bill Sawczuk. Their goal: to spotlight the role that land conservation has played in shaping the valley by having the artists paint scenes of Land Trust-protected parcels.

Through summer and fall, Hoffman, Turner, and Sawczuk worked en plein air at eighteen properties, places like Snake River Ranch, Bar B Bar Ranch, Circle Shoe Ranch, and Valley Ranch. They blogged about their experiences on view22.jhlandtrust.org and gave painting demonstrations. In December, Trio Fine Art hosted a show of the View 22 artwork, contributing a portion of the sales proceeds to the Land Trust.

The inspiration for View 22 was landscape painter Thomas Moran, whose sketches and watercolors of the region helped persuade Congress and President Grant to create the country's first national park in 1872.

It was Turner who came up with the idea for View 22. Having grown up on Triangle X, a working dude ranch in Grand Teton National Park, she has an appreciation of Teton vistas that has only deepened during her

career as an artist. Not surprisingly, she is a longtime Land Trust supporter.

“Landscape painters rely on open spaces,” she says, “but each and every person in Jackson Hole benefits. The Land Trust helps preserve Jackson for what it is.”

Season one of View 22 was filled with memorable moments for each artist. With his architecture and engineering background, Sawczuk appreciated painting old structures like the Huyler barn at the Rockin’ H Ranch and, at the Hofley Ranch, off Fall Creek Road, a log barn relocated from White Grass Ranch.

“Those are being preserved,” he says, “but a lot of that stuff is disappearing.”

Turner recalls a day on a 700-acre property along the Snake River. Her companions were elk full-swing in their mating ritual.

“It was during the rut,” she says. “They couldn’t have cared less that I was there. It made me feel so privileged, so lucky to be a painter.”

Hoffman says one of her “revelatory experiences” came on the Wilson Wetlands Trail.

“It’s about the tiniest piece of preserved land ever,” she says. “I’ve driven past it a million times, and when I got in there it was like this hidden explosion of color and texture surrounded by the sounds of traffic on Teton Pass and kids in Owen Bircher Park.

“It’s this oasis, complete with dragonflies and moose tracks and heavenly smells. It made me realize how even tiny pieces of property are not only worth preserving but

make a difference, even in the middle of town.”

View 22 is a perfect match for the Land Trust’s outreach goals, says Leslie Steen, communications manager.

“We have found that while people in the valley value and support the Land Trust’s work, they often can’t name or identify Land Trust-protected properties,” Steen says. “We hope that through View 22 they will become more familiar with these places and will understand the extraordinary impact of having these open spaces protected forever.”

Joining Hoffman, Turner, and Sawczuk for season two of View 22 will be Jackson Hole painters Lee Riddell, Travis Walker, and Kay Northup. Their schedule will include the Land Trust Picnic on August 10 at the 4 Lazy F Ranch.

The new View 22 artwork will hang at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in December. A private party will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on December 11, followed by a Mix’d Media event open to all. The show will hang one week before and after the parties.

New painters should bring new perspectives and audiences to the View 22 project. The six certainly won’t run out of places to paint: To date, the Land Trust has worked with landowners to protect more than 23,000 acres in Jackson Hole and the greater Yellowstone area.

View 22 showcases the Land Trust’s work “in a unique and wonderful way,” says Laurie Andrews, executive director of the Jackson Hole Land Trust. “The artists that we are fortunate to work with have a deep understanding of how these open spaces affect their daily lives and livelihoods as landscape painters, and we are grateful to them for sharing their talent and creativity in support of our work.” ■



BRADLY J. BONNER



Plein Air Parties

Flocks of landscape painters will alight in the area this summer.

Whether you’re a visitor to Jackson Hole or a resident, there’s something nice about viewing paintings of the mountains, waterways, and forests of the Tetons neighborhood.

And there’s also something nice about meeting the people who create those landscape paintings.

This summer presents opportunities for both.

On **June 21**, the **National Museum of Wildlife Art** will host **Plein Air Fest** on its Sculpture Trail. From **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** that day, forty-plus artists from more than half a dozen states will participate in a **Plein Air QuickDraw**, each creating a new work of art in four hours. The brand-new masterpieces will be sold by silent bid immediately after.

In July, the **Rocky Mountain Plein Air Painters** group returns to the valley for **Plein Air for the Park**, a national “paint-out” and show hosted by the Grand Teton Association to benefit Grand Teton National Park.

The artists will give demonstrations, participate in a quick draw, mount a group show, and just generally be out and about on their own creating new works of art—i.e., painting en plein air.

More than three-dozen members of the painters group plus invited guest artists are scheduled to participate. Among them will be Jackson Hole locals Jennifer L. Hoffman, Erin O’Connor, Bill Sawczuk, Kathryn Mapes Turner, Kay Northup, and Kathy Wipfler.

HERE’S A RUNDOWN OF PUBLIC PLEIN AIR FOR THE PARK EVENTS:

- // **July 7 to 19: Artists paint** in and around Grand Teton National Park and other parts of Jackson Hole.
- // **July 12: Artists in the Environment** painting demonstrations by Ann Larsen, Paul Kratter, Cody Delong and March Hanson (oil painters), and Michael McClure (watercolor). Look for them from **3 to 6 p.m.** near the Bradley/Taggart trailhead and Cottonwood Creek areas of Grand Teton National Park.
- // **July 16 to 20: Exhibition show and sale** at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose. Forty percent of show proceeds go to the Grand Teton Association to support educational, interpretive, and scientific programs in the park.
- // **July 16: Show opening reception** at **7 p.m.** and awards announcements at **7:45 p.m.** at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center.
- // **July 17: Group painting demonstration, 5 to 8 p.m.** at the National Elk Refuge and the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center on North Cache Street.
- // **July 19: Quick Draw and Sale, 9 a.m. to noon** at the Menor’s Ferry/Chapel of the Transfiguration area of Grand Teton. The event is an opportunity to watch artists start and finish a painting and to purchase the artwork immediately after. For updates, visit jacksonholechamber.com or rmpap.org.