

RUSS TANNER

STATEMENT

Russ Tanner's art is of the land itself, a testament to its wide-open spaces and sky, to the beauty of its high mountain majesty and of its hard, angular places. The majesty of the Southwestern mountain ranges and the subtle beauty of the deserts have inspired him. His love of nature and things of beauty are conveyed through his technical art training, coupling his honest realism with the softer subtleties of impressionism.

Primarily a landscapist, his choice of subject matter came as no surprise. As a young boy, frequent excursions to the mountains with his Boy Scout troop would often find Russ lost from the rest of the group and mesmerized for hours on end by the incredible view of a distant vista. He had fallen under the spell of the mountains and of uncrowded country. These early childhood memories evoked his sensibilities and influenced his now accomplished approach to painting.

As a native of Indiana and graduate of American Academy of Art in Chicago, Russ' love for the landscape came at an early age. Family vacations to the West brought him to a world of color, galleries and museums.

Though he had a successful illustration career in Kansas City, his passion to paint and a move to New Mexico in 1992 launched his fine-art career. Painting from life has given Russ the ability to see color and value in its truest form. Using sound design and color relationship Tanner affirms his reaction to his subject while trying not to override it,

A signature member of Oil Painters of America, Russ has received National Award for his work. He also has been recognized in the top 100 of the national Arts for the Parks exhibition. His works grace the collections of lending institutions, corporations and private collectors around the country including the University of New Mexico; City of Albuquerque, NM; and First Community Banks of New Mexico and Colorado.



“ L A R G E R T H A N L I F E ”

RUSS TANNER

BIOGRAPHY

Russ Tanner's talents drew attention at an early age. After high school, he was awarded a full scholarship to the American Academy of Art in Chicago. Upon graduation, he moved to Kansas City, where he pursued a career as an illustrator for Hallmark Cards and continued his formal studies at the Kansas City Art Institute. Later, Russ chose to freelance as an illustrator and designer for advertising firms and design studios. In 1992 Russ gave up a career as a commercial artist in the Midwest and moved permanently to New Mexico to capture the beauty of the Southwest on canvas. His work has come alive by capturing the light, color, and expansive landscapes of the New Mexico and Colorado. With fresh inspiration, his talents have matured and developed.

Russ prefers to paint in the early morning or late afternoon because it is at these times the light is more saturated while the angle of light produces brilliance of color like no other time of the day. The emergence of a new day or the slow retirement of days-end reveals a beauty of its own.

A landscape artist of the west, Russ Tanner captures light, color and expansiveness in his Plein Air and Studio paintings. His passion for expressing mountains and vistas represent a window to this world through his eye and his brushwork. He followed his heart's passion, becoming a full time artist in 1992, with a degree from The American Academy of Art, honing his artistic skills as an illustrator for Hallmark Cards and in commercial art, advertising and design arenas.

Influenced by the art of John F Carson, Edgar Payne, and Nicholai Fechin, Russ works in a broad-brush impressionist style, grounded in his own style of painterly realism. His attention to color and value, by painting from life, along with design, add a dimension to his paintings that have been recognized by both collector and art critics. As a Signature Member of Oil Painters of America, he exhibits in national and regional shows. His work can be seen in major national and international corporate and private collections.

The recipient of a Merit Award from the 1997 Oil Painters of America National Show and voted a signature member of OPA, Russ has exhibited in numerous national and regional competitions, Tanner juried into the 2005 Colorado Governor's Show. *A Room with a View* was juried a Top 100 finalist for the 2002 Art for the Parks Painting Competition and returned from touring the country for one year. The National Park Academy of the Arts to enhance public awareness of our National Parks puts on this competition.



“WHITE MESA”

RUSS TANNER

R E S U M E

EDUCATION:

American Academy of Art, Awarded Full Scholarship Chicago, IL
Kansas City Art Institute Kansas City, MO

SELECTED SHOWS, EXHIBITS AND REWARDS:

2005-06 Artist in Residence Invitational, Columbine Galleries Santa Fe, NM
2005 Colorado Governor's Invitational Art Show and Sale Loveland, CO
2005 Rocky Mountain Plein Air Painters, National Show
2004 Adobe Gallery, One Man Show Santa Fe, NM
2004 Rocky Mountain Plein Air Painters, National Show
2003 Adobe Gallery, One Man Show Santa Fe, NM
2002 Arts In the Parks, Top 100 Show Jackson Hole, WY
2002 Adobe Gallery, One Man Show Santa Fe, NM
2001 Concetta 'D Gallery, One Man Show
1998 Oil Painters of America National Show, Award Winner
1998 Signature Member of Oil Painters of America (OPA)
1997 Night Walker National Show
1996 Southwest Regional Show (OPA)
1994 OPA National Show
1994 OPA Southwest District Show
1994 One Man Show: Dr. & Mrs. Jerry King Albuquerque, NM
1992 Wichita Kansas Small Oil Competition Wichita, KS

MAJOR COLLECTIONS, CORPORATE & PRIVATE:

First Community Bank Denver, CO
First Community Bank Longmont, CO
First State Bank Las Cruzses, NM
Bernaillo County Albuquerque, NM
Alfredo Cortazar, Sombra Cosmetics Albuquerque, NM
Health Plus Albuquerque, NM
University of New Mexico Los Lunas Campus
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fortier Kansas City, MO
Mr. & Mrs. John Miller Kansas City, MO
Dr. Gary Johnson Albuquerque, NM
Dr. & Mrs. Jerry King Albuquerque, NM
Douglas & Tish Eason, Attorneys at Law Oklahoma City, OK
Robert Henry, US Circuit Judge Oklahoma City, OK
Dr. & Mrs. Fred Keen Mortiarty, NM
Dr. Gayle Miller Cheyanne, WY
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Supple Corrales, NM
Catherine Bedell Denver, CO
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Harris Santa Fe, NM
Dr. Roger Billica, Tri-Life Health Fort Collins, CO