

November 6, 2022, through January 8, 2023

Dreamworld on the Prairie

mixed media works by
David Friday
of Russell, Kansas

Artist Statement

My journey began with Paint by Numbers, as many artists' have. At age 9, I dragged this colorful little canvas to my 4th grade show-and-tell. When I held up my work and declared to my peers, "I AM AN ARTIST," their applause validated my creative spirit in a way nothing else could, and set me on a lifelong mission of optimism, beauty, and joy.

Making art is always a journey -- and an education. Every painting builds on the techniques and themes of my past work, adding to the kaleidoscope of my creative reservoir.

I taught myself how to paint by copying the Masters: Picasso, Matisse, Thomas Hart Benton, Lester Raymer, and Birger Sandzén. The thick texture is marble and acrylic medium which is quite strong. I sculpt the painting first before I begin the layers of color. The copy of Sandzén's painting, *Sunset (Estes Park, Colorado)* from 1921 is one of my favorites.

While finalizing pieces for *Dreamworld on the Prairie* several people have asked, "how long did that one take?" My honest reply is, "about 60 years."

I make art to share it. I love bringing happiness and joy to others. Any time I create something beautiful, entertaining, and colorful it dispels melancholy and feeds joy. It transports me into a positive state and anchors me onto a happy plane. This is wonderful for me, but it also works some highly beneficial magic for anyone who adds my paintings into their space.

Throughout my career, my subjects have reflected the settings of my life: the desert, the beach, the city, the mountains, the kitchen, the Catskills... and now I've returned to the Great American Prairie, where my journey began nearly 70 years ago.

I love the feeling of freedom and abandon, like the wind dancing across endless fields of wheat, the uplifting song and vibrant breast of a meadowlark at sunrise, the colossal and changeable prairie sky, and the optimistic face of a sensational sunflower.



Home on the Range by David Friday

You know, nature itself is quite daring. Look around; you'll see that "the natural order" is actually a beautiful, vibrant kind of chaos. That inspires me, it validates my perspective, and it informs my process.

If anyone is curious about me, I say "just look at my paintings." At this point in my career, my soul is all over the canvas. My life has been vibrant, and my work draws on that experience. You can always find me there.

Biography

David Friday is a true American original. His paintings hang in homes and corporate settings across the US, chronicling a lifetime filled with color and wonder.

His childhood, youth, and education on the Great Western Plains of Kansas developed a creative vocabulary and depth of expression that's defined by boldness, wry humor, and individuality.

On canvases large and small, the vibrancy, vitality and diversity of the natural world influence his work. Inspiration and technique from Picasso, O'Keefe, Birger Sandzén, Grant Wood, and Thomas Hart Benton are evident throughout his career. In recent years Friday's voice and soul have erupted into each piece with a clear and distinct point of view.

With each deliberate and whimsical stroke of *Dreamworld on the Prairie*, Friday invites guests into a mystical vision of his subconscious landscape. He elevates and electrifies the iconography of his home region, which many might otherwise consider synonymous with the mundane. Instead, by depicting an elusive unity with nature, we visit a world alive with vivid folklore, organic wisdom, and an altered sense of what it means to be real.



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