

November 5, 2023, through January 7, 2024

# *Coming Home*

paintings by

**John McClanahan**

of Dallas, Texas

## Artist Statement

The work selected for this exhibition represents over sixty years of preoccupation and identification with the subject matter known as “landscape.” Flat plains that merge into high horizons and infinite skies contrast what is close with what is far away. Quiet places where ribbons cut the terrain into ascending and descending movements making distance accessible. A place where the Blackjack, Osage Orange, and Hackberry flourish unattended. This is where I am most comfortable and as a painter of landscape, I always rejoice in the opportunity to explore the hidden intersections of time and space.

As is apparent to those who view this work, I make no attempt to imitate nature as would a camera. I seek out structure, movement, color, texture, and the effects of light that constantly change. My eye views the scene as it appears momentarily and then inspiration begins. My task is to remove clutter, amplify or constrict distances and dimensions, utilize color and texture, and define mood. This personal response is an ever-changing, never-ending search for my own visual language as expressed through the media of watercolor and gouache on paper. It is hoped that this glimpse of a large land as seen through a small window will begin for the viewer a journey of discovery. To step through the window is to experience an environment of overwhelming simplicity and power—a moment caught in time.

John D. McClanahan



*Prairie Salute #47* by John McClanahan

## Biography

John McClanahan is most at ease with a paintbrush in hand, and he spends days in his East Dallas studio living out his need to put paint on paper. His paintings offer a collection of bold color and expressive line where sky meets earth. His work has always been about the subject matter of landscape, with

hopes the viewer can feel the earth beneath their feet as they absorb each piece. His creative activity was influenced by his formative years of an upbringing in Kansas. McClanahan's career spans over six decades and his creative work has been exhibited regionally and nationally in more than 200 exhibitions.

McClanahan has a rich history of residing in Central Texas and being a part of Baylor University in Waco from 1976 to 2010, where Professor McClanahan served most of that time as Chair of the Art Department. He was also founding Director of the Allbritton Art Institute, also in Waco. Prior to Baylor, he held positions at Queens University of Charlotte in North Carolina and Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. John McClanahan received an MFA from the University of Iowa in 1964 and a BFA from Bethany College in Kansas.



Birger Sandzen  
- MEMORIAL GALLERY -

401 N. First Street, PO Box 348, Lindsborg, KS 67456  
(785) 227-2220 sandzengallery@gmail.com www.sandzen.org  
Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.