

August 4 through October 20, 2024

Small Beneath the Sky

paintings by

Johne Richardson
of Overland Park, Kansas

“Just over the next rise, just around the bend, just
down the road apiece...
Is something marvelous just waiting to be discovered.”

Artist Statement and Biography

A son of the prairie, John Richardson was born and raised in Kansas and grew up with a fierce love of cowboys, history, the American West, big skies, and wide-open spaces. He began drawing and painting at a very young age, and is working hard at it still. After decades as a successful illustrator and as a teacher and painter in watercolor for more than thirty years, Richardson began to focus specifically on fine art and transitioning to larger works on canvas – first with acrylic, and now exclusively in oil. When he’s not out seeking inspiration roaming the prairie or wandering in the mountains, Richardson is generally found hanging out in his studio, painting landscapes and cowboys.

“The elusive, ever-changing, and subtle roll of the cowboy hat brim, caught in the sunlight, is the most marvelous subject, visually, that I’ve ever encountered, and perhaps the most difficult to paint.

I work hard to simplify the complex countenance of the cowboy – to relate his or her story with large, graphic shapes, a lively surface, color that speaks, is affectionate towards the light, and with a dynamic composition that is always attempting to break free of the boundaries of canvas. And at the same time, I’m attempting to capture an intensely personal, and fleeting, moment or mood. To me, landscapes are portraits as well, with the presence of life, if not a literal part of the image, very much implied.

To say I’m enamored of cows on a ridge would be a bit of an understatement. I love their lumbering, boxy shapes, their stoic dispositions, and particularly their silhouettes against a big prairie sky, particularly at sunset, just as a storm is breaking up and the light is most dramatic. Enormous animals made very small by comparison. I don’t think I could ever paint them enough... or prairie skies, either.

My favorite color to use when painting a landscape I refer to as “distant blue” and its range of hue and value is as elusive and ever-changing as the clouds, hills, canyons, and mountain ranges that I try to capture on canvas with it and I’m grateful for the vast distances of the American West that create this marvelous blue.

Ridge lines create a rhythm to the landscape and draw us back into space and distance. They let us know where we are in a particular place. They can be tall & jagged, low and subtle, or carved from the earth, like canyons. They can float as clouds in the sky overhead, creating layers that



The Girl Next Door by John Richardson, 2024,
oil on canvas, 24 x 24 inches

move and shift over time, sliding back and forth like pieces of a set on a stage. Which is what the outdoors is – a grand, marvelous stage.

Figures often move in and out of my paintings – traveling across the scene on horseback, in the distance, sometimes appearing as a silhouette, or brought up so close on the canvas that the landscape is a brief suggestion or only implied. Known to the viewer, but not necessary to see. But the same rhythm of marks is visible, as is the same important overlapping of shapes.”

“I try to capture on canvas that which moves me when I see it. I hope viewers enjoy my paintings, and understand the joy I have in making them.”

Johne lives and works in Overland Park, Kansas, with his wife Janet. They have three grown children.

Gallery Representation

Anticus Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ - anticus.com

FoR Fine Art, Tucson, AZ, Bigfork, MT, Whitefish, MT - forfineart.com

The Rice Gallery of Fine Art, Overland Park, KS - thericegallery.com

Recent Awards and Exhibitions

Oil Painters of America National Juried Exhibition 2024, Best Animal Painting Award

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum Small Works Exhibit, 2014-2023

Solo exhibition March 2 to April 5, 2023 FoR Fine Art Gallery, Tucson, AZ

Lobby installation (five paintings) Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell, MT 2022

Oil Painters of America National Juried Exhibition 2022, accepted

Oil Painters of America Western Regional Exhibition 2022, accepted

Missouri Valley Impressionist Society annual juried exhibition, Award of Merit 2021

Rice Gallery Small Works Exhibit, “Best of Show” 2021

Oil Painters of America Western Regional Exhibition, Silver Medal Winner, 2020

Missouri Valley Impressionist Society annual juried exhibition Award of Merit 2020

Oil Painters of America, Salon Show 2020, accepted

SouthWind Gallery Annual Watercolor Competition, “Best of Show” 2019

Art at the Center, Overland Park, KS, selected Juror, 2019

Oil Painters of America National Juried Exhibition 2019, accepted

Out West Show & Sale, Great Falls, Montana, 2019 exhibitor

Art at the Center, Overland Park, KS, Best of Show Award, 2018, 2013, 2012

Oil Painters of America, Salon Show 2018, accepted

Art at the Center, Overland Park, KS, Honorable Mention, 2017

Buttonwood Gallery “Vision of the Flint Hills,” First Place, painting, 2016

Oil Painters of America, 25th anniversary exhibit, May 2016, accepted

Buttonwood Gallery “Vision of the Flint Hills,” Best in Show, 2015

Oil Painters of America Western Regional Exhibition, Gold Medal Winner, 2015

Leawood, KS annual juried exhibition, Best in Show, 2015



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Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.