

MOUNTAIN TRAILS GALLERY LEADING THE WEST

R. Tom Gilleon

Attempt to pass by a Tom Gilleon painting and you will find yourself casually looking once and then looking again. It's the inevitable second glance, followed by a reflective pause that characterizes Gilleon's popularity. His unique treatment of seemingly familiar western subjects incorporates the slightest twist of surrealism, a hint of colorfully driven fantasy.

His trademark western contemporary style plays on the edge of literal. Widely known for his iconic tepee in a square and nine-by-nine grid paintings, Gilleon breathes life into a new movement spawned from traditional western art. His eye for composition captures a wild connection between basic shapes and warm textured colors that combine to form his hypnotizing treatment of the iconic West.

Unsurprisingly, Gilleon has been selected as the featured artist of the 2009 Jackson Hole Fall Arts Festival. His work will be showcased in a one-man show September 1-22 at Mountain Trails Gallery, offering seasoned collectors and first-time visitors a chance to experience the intriguing mystery and profound simplicity of his work in person.

R. Tom Gilleon, Jackson Hole Fall Arts Festival 2009 featured artist



Mary Roberson

A walking testimony to the beauty, conflict and emotion poured onto canvas through brushstrokes, Mary Roberson lives to paint. But that was not always the case. Gifted with overflowing talent, Roberson painted, or more aptly, coped at a young age with a lifetime's worth of struggles. After coloring canvas through a troubled childhood and into her college years on a prestigious scholarship, she got married, settled into life, and over time, put down her brush altogether.

However, her dormant abilities eventually overpowered her avoidance — true to the only style she seemed to know — in a rather dramatic sequence. After recovering from a stroke at age 39 and pledging a healthier lifestyle on all accounts, Roberson knew it was time to paint again. Her work soared. She paints now from a creativity deep within, projecting natural realism with subtle overtones of broader symbolism.

Relying on a nature-neutral palette in color and theme, Roberson paints fierce and bold — as if imparting the wisdom of her own personal struggles on her subjects. The National Museum of Wildlife Art recognized her talent and purchased her piece, “The Mystic Forest,” as a permanent addition to their collection. As if reinforcing her own healing, Roberson's work demonstrates a connection with the universal struggle present in nature: a will to survive.

Mary Roberson, Twins, oil, 50"(h) x 50"(w)

