

SPIKE RESS

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"I try to respond with honesty and clarity to what is before me. It is my aim to capture the way a scene *feels*, not just the way a scene looks and I hope to communicate that feeling to the viewer."

The remarkable work of painter Spike Ress is the result of natural artistic talent, a great love of the southwest landscape and a lifetime of study, careful observation and experience. Ress is no stranger to the American Southwest. He grew up in Roswell, New Mexico as an adventurous spirit whose youthful explorations took him around the state, as did his early commercial art career. Ress began working in the sign business at the age of sixteen. He quickly gained skills that kept him moving throughout

the region to ever better job positions until he ended up as art director for a major sign company in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In spite of success as a commercial artist, Ress felt the pull of fine art ever since he first held a brush. Weekends and vacations were devoted to pursuit of his own artistic development, traveling with paints and camping gear to find those familiar southwest landscapes that inspire his work. In 1978 he left commercial art to paint full-time.

Ress's passion for painting was initiated with watercolor, a medium he still finds challenging and exciting. After gaining national acclaim as a watercolor artist, Ress began to add oils to his repertoire. "I find the contrast between the way one must handle the paint and brushes in oil versus watercolor stimulates me to more creative and expressive use of both media." Today he works comfortably in both watercolor and oil but always with a focus on the landscapes he knows and loves throughout the Southwest.

BACKGROUND

Born: Long Island, New York, February 1948

An early interest in drawing and painting led to an apprenticeship with a Roswell, New Mexico Sign Company. After ten years of working in the sign business, Ress gained the position as Art Director with a national firm in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 1978 Spike left commercial art to paint full-time.

SELECTED JURY EXHIBITIONS AND AWARDS

- 2011 Maynard Dixon Country, invited artist, Thunderbird Foundation, Mt. Carmel, Utah
- 2010-11 Western Federation of Watercolor Societies 35th Annual Exhibition
- 2001 Helper Utah Annual Plein Air Competition - **Honorable Mention**
- 2000-11 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah – **Awards** - '05,'06,'07,'08,'09','11
- 1999 Watercolor West Annual Juried Exhibition - **Grumbacker Gold Medallion Award**
- 1997 Southern Utah Invitational, Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Cedar City, Utah
- 1997 The Regional, St. George Art Museum
- 1996 Utah Spring Salon, Springville Museum of Art, Springville, Utah
- 1994-95 Expo Arte, The Juarez Art Museum, Juarez, Mexico
- 1989 American Watercolor Society 122nd International Exhibition
- 1988 San Diego Watercolor Society International Exhibit - **3rd and Purchase Award**
- 1988 Arts for the Parks - **top 100 for traveling exhibition**
- 1986 New Mexico Color and Light Annual Exhibit
- 1986-99 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah - **Purchase Award 1992**
- 1986 Watercolor West Annual Juried Exhibition
- 1985 The Utah Experience Exhibit, The Museum of Natural History, Taipei, Taiwan

1985 San Diego Watercolor Society International Exhibit
1985 Rocky Mountain National Water Media Exhibit - **Dick Blick Award**
1985 Cedar City National Juried Exhibition - **Purchase Award**
1985 Watercolor West Annual Juried Exhibition
1984 Utah Watercolor Society Annual Exhibition
1984 Rocky Mountain National Water Media Exhibit
1984-85 Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Exhibit - **First Merit Award 1984**
1983 Utah Watercolor Society Annual Exhibition - **First Merit Award**
1983 Cedar City National Juried Exhibition

GALLERY AFFILIATIONS

Adobe Gallery, Ruidoso, New Mexico
Apple Frame Gallery, Bountiful, Utah
Bingham Gallery, Mt. Carmel, Utah
Total Arts Gallery, Taos, New Mexico

MUSEUM AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Charles M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, MT
Saint George City Art Museum, St. George, UT
Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery and Museums, Cedar City, UT
Dixie College, St. George, Utah

PUBLIC AND CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

Cedar City Art Committee, Cedar City, Utah
Dean Witter, Salt Lake City, Utah
Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, Denver, Colorado
Fidelity Investments, Salt Lake City, Utah
First Interstate Bank, Las Vegas, Nevada
Flanigan's Inn, Zion National Park, Utah
Fox and Company, Salt Lake City, Utah
Iron County, State of Utah
Parowan, Utah, Main Street Visitors Center
Phillips Petroleum Company, Bartlesville, Oklahoma
Review Journal Newspaper, Las Vegas, Nevada
Silverlake Properties of Southern California
State Bank of Southern Utah, Cedar City, Utah
State Bank of Southern Utah, Parowan, Utah
The City of Boulder City, Nevada
The City of Salt Lake City, Utah
The Leavitt Insurance Group, Cedar City, Utah
United Bank of Brighton, Colorado
Valley View Hospital, Cider City, Utah
Watkiss and Campbell, Salt Lake City, Utah
Winder and Haslam, Salt Lake City, Utah

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Southern Utah University - winter 1997, Special Instructor of Art
Southern Utah University - 1994, guest artist
Brigham Young University - winter 1992, guest artist
Southern Utah University - winter 1984, Special Instructor of Art
Southern Utah University - Continuing Education - summer 1984, 1989, 1990

Boulder City Art Institute Workshop, Boulder City, UT
Cedar City Art Retreats, Cedar City, UT

Duck Creek Village, Workshop, Duck Creek, UT
Las Vegas Artist's Co-op Workshop, Las Vegas, NV
Southern Utah Society of Artists Workshop, St. George, UT
St. George Artist's Co-op Workshop, St. George, UT

Utah Watercolor Society Workshop, Cedar City, UT
Willow Glen Art Retreats Workshop, Cedar City, UT