Remembered Color

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Like many Wyoming artists, I'm deeply inspired by the state's monumental topography. However, painting from this landscape often means the viewer must be familiar with Wyoming in order to appreciate the work. I want my paintings to come from my surroundings, but not be limited by them.

The essence of a landscape painting consists of color and light. Everything else – depth, motion, texture, composition – comes from the effects of color and light as they are conveyed by the paint. I want to reduce the specific experience of western landscape to color and light, so that anyone who enjoys color may perceive it.

With this goal in mind, I go out into the landscape to observe, commit an especially striking "color swatch" to memory, and bring it back to the studio. I don't use a camera, just my eyes and my brain.

From each particular "color chip" of a time and place, I create a painting that replicates that experience.

Sue Sommers
Pinedale, Wyoming
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