

# Wyoming Landscapes

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I paint landscape as a response to places I love, and also as a vehicle for my response to the paint, canvas and paper. I use intense but transparent colors and mostly loose brushstrokes to capture the constant motion of the natural world. In this series, collage elements suggest the background hum of human intellectual activity and those beliefs which shape our approach to the land.

Most of the paintings shown here were inspired by explorations in the Wind River Range of western Wyoming, a region that sparked the imaginations of Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Moran, and other prominent American landscape painters of the 19th century. Their work has been labeled "romantic," exaggerated, or melodramatic by many art historians who have never visited this area.

Like those landscape painters of the 19th century, I am after the experience of the "sublime," which I would define as being so moved by a place that one feels inhabited by it. But like artists in the centuries since, I also find the modes and materials of artmaking -- the application of pigment, the making of marks, the orchestration of shapes to create a composition, and all the rest -- in themselves sublime.

Sue Sommers  
Pinedale, Wyoming  
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