

The Painting of Evergreen: A Plein Air Event

EVERGREEN, COLORADO



ASPEN PATH OF TIME, DON SAHLI, 20 x 16 IN.

STANDING IN THE WARMTH of the October sun, each with paintbrush in hand, they dotted the hills, creek sides and trails — themselves part of the landscape that each worked to capture on canvas. These 44 painters traveled to the picturesque town of Evergreen, Colorado, to participate in the Sahli School of Art: *The Painting of Evergreen – A Plein Air Event*. Private galleries, nonprofit art organizations and collectors joined artists influenced by Sahli's unique teachings for this 10-year celebration and reunion of his renowned Sahli School of Art. Therefore, it was only natural that the umbrella title, *Under the Influence*, encompassed the month of plein-air painting events and exhibitions that dotted this sleepy art mecca.

Connecting these scattered artists was the common bond of having studied under Don Sahli. The American painter and teacher of the Russian School of Painting is said to be the last apprentice to Russian colorist Sergei Bongart. "Everyone has so much respect for Don, we were delighted to do this," said event artist Jane Ford.

Residents and visitors to the mountain community took advantage of witnessing the process of plein-air art. Each artist welcomed questions and allowed peering eyes. "This was an

opportunity for people to understand what it takes to create a beautiful piece of art," said Cindy Sahli, manager of Sahli School of Art. "They were able to come away with an appreciation of the time, effort and talent behind a painting."

At the end of the weekend, each artist had the challenge of selecting one of those recently created works to be featured at the Evergreen Arts Center

exhibit *Under the Influence: An Exhibition of Works by the Arts of Sahli School of Art*. The exhibition also featured paintings of other artists who are currently studying or previously have studied under Sahli. "This show was so respected, it attracted over 300 people to the gala opening of the exhibit," said Loreen Joos, director of the Center.

Additionally, Millsap-Moore Fine Art Gallery hosted an invitational show, *Under the Influence: Don Sahli and a Select Reserve of Painters*; and the Center Stage Theater's Gallery hosted *Under the Influence: Don Sahli and a Beaujolais of Painters*, featuring the works of Sahli and selected students.

"I was thrilled to showcase Sahli School of Art's present and former students — their work, their talent and their accomplishments," said Sahli. "I taught them to find their 'true styles' within themselves; and as a teacher and as a painter, it was an emotional experience for me to see the exceptional variety of these styles on canvas and then on the walls of these fine art galleries. All of these artists emerged in their own right, both artistically and professionally. These shows and events celebrated their brilliance and vitality." ■

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DON SAHLI DEMONSTRATES HIS CRAFT FOR STUDENTS AND VISITORS.

