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WILD BLUE YONDER

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ARTIST DON SAHLI IS A PAINTER WHO SKIES & A SKIER WHO PAINTS



While hitting the slopes, one painter is taking his skis to new, artistic elevations!

Don Sahli, an American painter, teacher of the Russian School of Painting and the last apprentice to the famous Russian

colorist Sergei Bongart, enjoys skiing Colorado's breathtaking runs with his easel on his back and his "art Sherpa" along side — stopping to paint spectacular aerial views and alpine landscapes wherever he finds them.

As a painter and a skier, Sahli takes his passion and talent from the slope to a large canvas. He asks himself, "Am I an artist that skies, or a skier that paints?"

To capture the authentic color and beauty of the outdoors, Sahli paints plein air (French, meaning, "in the open air"). His ski scenes take viewers "back to their day on the mountain" and into the charm and emotion of winter in the mountains. Each evening, the finished paintings can be seen in galleries in Aspen, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, and Vail.

Sahli, so engaged by the scope and scale of the views on top of the ski mountains, needed assistance with the 75 pounds on his back. Sahli's "art Sherpa," an art student from Vail, Colo., helps carry the materials and lighten the load along the way. The Sherpa idea came to Sahli, after the artist watched a film about Sir Edmond Hillary and his guide.

Sahli's paintings are sold in fine art galleries around the country, and plans for his 2005 workshops are underway. For more information, visit his web site at www.sahlistudio.com, or call 303.670.8615.

