



JILL CARVER (b. 1968) came to paint landscapes of the American West via a most unusual path. Born and raised in England, she was making art from the age of three but, after graduating from university, opted to spend 12 happy years working as a curatorial research assistant at London's National Portrait Gallery. Though surrounded there by some of the finest figurative artworks on earth, Carver continued painting nature in her spare time, and in 2001 she took a sabbatical to spend four months in New Zealand. There she drove around — and lived — in a small van, painting locales both inhabited and wild. Upon her return to London, a selling show of the resulting works at New Zealand's embassy enjoyed an unexpectedly high degree of success. That did it: Carver decided to paint full-time, and soon thereafter she resettled in Austin, Texas.

Today, Carver uses her base in central Texas to explore the state's most appealing scenery, including the Hill Country, Davis Mountains, and Big Bend region. She also makes frequent trips to such states as Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah, and especially the historic mining town of Rico in southwestern Colorado, where she is scheduled to bring another group of students late this September to capture brilliant fall foliage.

JILL CARVER (b. 1968)

DESERT FORT

2010, OIL ON CANVAS, 16 x 20 IN.

ON VIEW AT *MAYNARD DIXON COUNTRY* (MT. CARMEL, UT) THIS AUGUST

The product of all these journeys is a growing oeuvre of glowing canvases painted almost entirely on site, no matter how large or small. Carver casts her discerning eye over canyons, deserts, woodlands, streams, and marshes, but also at manmade motifs such as small towns, dilapidated barns, trucks, and tractors. Across the room, these scenes are completely legible, but as we approach they dissolve into an explosion of lively, richly colored brushstrokes.

Her efforts are certainly getting noticed: Last year she won the Artists' Choice Award at the Laguna Art Museum's *Laguna Beach Invitational*, where she will return October 10-17. And not surprisingly, her sales are thriving at InSight Gallery (Fredericksburg, TX), South Street Art Gallery (Easton, MD), Thunderbird Foundation for the Arts (Mt. Carmel, UT), Wally Workman Gallery (Austin), and Windrush Art Gallery (Sedona, AZ). ■