

Kenny McKenna

Completion of McKenna's first oil painting was in 1966 during his third year of high school art instruction. For two decades following, painting was for self enjoyment while he traveled from coast to coast and gig to gig as a musician with rhythm and blues bands. Gradually, painting grew from diversion to career.

Working exclusively in oil, McKenna strives to capture the feel of the landscape by location painting, quick sketches, and photographing with the finished piece completed in his studio. Whether painting the vastness of the Grand Canyon, the Arizona desert, Monument Valley, the Rocky Mountains, or a sunset on the Great Plains, his objective is to create a piece that comes together by knowing what to paint in and what to leave to a viewer's imagination and eye.

McKenna's work metamorphosed from a romanticized style to translation of the subject in a natural, looser "as it is" style. Viewers and collectors have taken favorable notice. His passion, determination, and persistence have been rewarded with personal invitation to several annual shows.

1995 - present: Thomas Gilcrease Museum Art in Miniature Exhibit, Tulsa, OK

2005 - present: NatureWorks Wildlife Show & Sale, Tulsa, OK

2006 - present: Night of Artists Sale & Gala, San Antonio, TX
Hosted by the National Western Art Foundation & the Dolph Briscoe Western Art Museum

2008 - present: Panhandle-Plains Invitational, Canyon, TX

Achievements/Honors

Art of the West feature in March/April issue of 2005

Feature in upcoming March/April issue of 2010, Art of the West

Selected artist for the 2006 Oklahoma Artist Series by C. Kendric Fergeson, national treasurer for Americans for the Arts and a 2009 Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee

Award of Excellence recipient in 2005, 2006, 2007 at the NatureWorks Wildlife Show and selected unanimously as feature artist for the 2010 show

Western Art Collector, May 2008, referenced the Night of Artists Sale & Gala with a statement by then executive director Darrell Beauchamp..."I could have sold twice as many pieces of work by Kenny McKenna."

Panhandle-Plains Invitational, 2008 and a first year participant, received the show's only honor, the Lead Steer Award

Current Gallery Representation

Collectors Covey Dallas, TX since October 2006 with one-man show set for April 2010

Settlers West Tucson, AZ since April 2008