

RALPH OBERG

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Having been a working artist for over 40 years now, I am fortunate to have finally reached fairly mature place in my work, which I feel continues to grow. We artists are often asked, "What is your favorite piece you have painted?" This is usually answered; "The next one." That truth is what keeps us all going back to the easel every day. The joy of the process of trying to create beauty is the most fulfilling life I could ask for. The challenge is new on each piece to reach deeper and perform better.

My work focuses primarily on my love for the Mountain Wildernesses of Western North America. My recent travels to Nepal and Switzerland, in addition to my lifelong pursuit of mountains from Arizona to Alaska, have broadened my reach. The Gold Medal piece "Ice Fall", is based on a day hike up from Grindelwald to the toe of the Fiescherhorn Glacier, where I did a 12x10 plein air study that I immediately knew would go BIG in the studio! It is a statement about the rapid melting of Glaciers worldwide, which I have clearly seen in over 40 years of travel in glacier country.

I also have had a lifelong love for the wildlife that inhabits and requires these shrinking wild places to survive. Between my animal work, which has ranged from birds to large mammals, to my years of Plein Air Painting and studio landscapes, I have resisted the tendency to be pigeon-holed too much. I recently received the Briscoe Art Museum's Purchase Award at their Night of Artists Show, which placed my "Prairie Sunset" 40x55 into their Permanent Collection.

I have shown with the Masters of the American West, Autry National Center LA CA, The Prix de West Invitational at the National Cowboy Museum of OKC OK, Western Visions at the National Museum of Wildlife Art, among others. I am a Signature member of the Plein Air Painters of America, Society of Animal Artists, Northwest Rendezvous Group, and CAC.

I was recently greatly honored to receive the Wilson Hurley Memorial Award for Landscape at the 2020 Prix de West Invitational at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in OKC, OK.

My Galleries include: Wood River Fine Art, Trailside Galleries, Simpson-Gallagher Gallery, Paderewski Fine Art, Oh Be Joyful Gallery.