

Steele Painting:
Western Landscape by John Steele
July 12 - September 28, 2019

20 NORTH
GALLERY
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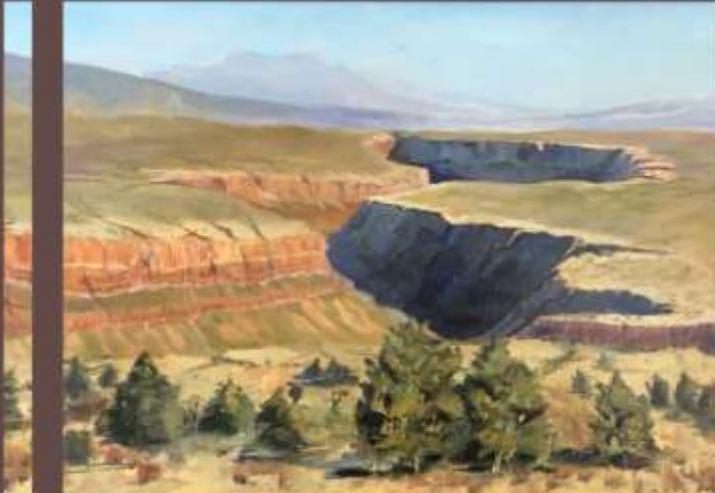
Featuring breathtaking oil paintings by Colorado artist John Steele — 20% of the sales from this exhibit will be donated to The Michael J. Fox Foundation, for the purpose of Parkinson's research.

After a long hiatus from his early student works on paper, John Steele embarked on an active painting career in 2009, becoming entirely self-taught in his approach to landscape. In that span, his expressive and unconventional deployment of color, combined with his evocative and modulating brushwork, have result in vivid depictions of the splendor of the American West that are both sensitive and dramatic in portraying the character of these distinct locations.

In 2014, Steele was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. His painting career continues, adapting his work in oils to the challenges of his symptoms. Because of this, he has dedicated this exhibit—his first solo and his Midwestern debut—to support Parkinson's research. For that purpose, 20% of the sales from the exhibition will be donated to The Michael J. Fox Foundation, contributed jointly by the artist and 20 North Gallery.

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View the online catalogue
at 20northgallery.com



Captivating and enthralling oil paintings that embody the majesty of Western vistas.

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Gallery Hours:
Wed. - Sat.
Noon - 4 p.m.
Or By Appointment

Rio (detail); oil on canvas; by John Steele.
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About the Exhibit

Airy and expansive, the *Steele Painting: Western Landscape by John Steele* exhibit embodies the sweeping majesty of the American West. Steele's captivating oil paintings masterfully portray accurate depictions of distinct locations, but transcend the conventions of simple representation. From South Dakota to California, he creates vistas of the experience of the western states. His stunning and self-taught use of brush work and color theory alludes to a deep sense of space, providing the viewer a breath of fresh air and an atmosphere to enjoy at one's own leisure. The full dimensionality of his work is best expressed in his own words, "I hope in some way that the viewer can see what I saw—feel the wind and smell the sage."

Diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2014, John Steele is as committed to supporting Parkinson's research as he is to furthering his artistic expression. Accordingly, 20% of the sales from the exhibition will be donated to The Michael J. Fox Foundation, contributed jointly by the artist and 20 North Gallery.

For, of the ten years of his active painting career, John Steele has been living with Parkinson's disease for five of them, continuing to hone his talent and adapt his painting style in response to the effects of his symptoms. The earlier paintings shown here are tighter and more linear in their approach; his more recent canvases are more painterly, lush and expressive: a brilliant testament to the growth of the artist's impressive skill in oils, informed by—but in no way diminished by—his condition.

20 North Gallery is proud to present the work of John Steele in his Midwestern debut.

John Steele

Longmont, Colorado

Artist Biography

John Steele was born in Burbank, California in 1949. His family relocated frequently to accommodate his father's work, moving nine times before John Steele even entered high school. At the age of seven, Steele realized his interest in art after multiple museum visits during school field trips. His early interest in art became a "consistent place to return to." He started drawing his pets and family members, as well as copying images from newspapers and books. Steele's formal art training began in high school. During his senior year, two of his drawings were selected for the *National Scholastic Art Award* competition in Washington D.C., a crowning moment for him to demonstrate to his family the importance of art in his life.

Steele's academic art training was focused entirely in drawing; he did not begin painting until after serving two years in the U.S. Army. Having embarked in a new medium, Steele was self-taught in regard to brush work and color theory. His art career then experienced a 40-year hiatus, as he transitioned from retail management to a 22-year career in the Army National Guard. Upon his retirement in 2009, after achieving the rank of Command Sergeant Major, he returned to his early love of art and painting—not as a business, but for the joy of creating.

In 2014, John Steele was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Through management of his condition, he continues to paint, adapting his technique and style to accommodate the challenges posed by his Parkinson's symptoms. The achievement of his first solo exhibition, *Steele Painting: Western Landscape by John Steele*, provides him the opportunity to raise awareness for Parkinson's research. For that reason, 20% of the sales from the exhibition will be donated to The Michael J. Fox Foundation, contributed jointly by the artist and 20 North Gallery.

John Steele continues to be a frequent museum visitor during his travels through the American West, in search of inspiration for his painting. He has become an avid collector, with significant representation of western artists, both European and indigenous, in works from the early 20th century to the present. Although Steele has not invested in traditional gallery representation, his landscape paintings have received the compliment of being collected by many of the acclaimed contemporary artists whose work he, himself, is collecting.

His work has been included in many Colorado exhibitions including, *Boulder Art Association Show 2013*, *Longmont Artist Guild Show 2013*, *Greeley Art Association Show 2014* and the *National Greeley Art Exhibition* in 2014, garnering numerous awards. Along with juried exhibitions, Steele's paintings have



John Steele,

image courtesy of artist

also been displayed at Longmont United Hospital and the University of Northern Colorado. Steele is a member of The Art Student League of Denver. Most recently, he and two fellow artists traveled to Lapland in Finland for a two-week, plein air painting expedition in the Arctic Circle. Beyond his adventurous endeavors, John Steele maintains a studio at his home in Longmont, Colorado.

Artist Statement

I hold a strong belief that art is for everyone, whether it is subjectively categorized as good or bad holds no importance. My work explores this natural instinct to create and to enjoy the art the world gives us freely in means of experiences. I began painting in 1970, but after five or six canvases, life quickly intervened. In 2009, when my children were grown and I retired from the military I began painting again. Although I entered several small local shows with good results, I quickly lost interest in formal exhibitions. My approach to painting has always been more as a communication vehicle than a commercial enterprise. At that point I started painting for my family, friends and contemporaries who share an appreciation for the messages my work conveys.

I have been influenced by contemporary art and the Impressionists, who likewise shared the same mission, the attempt to try to capture a fleeting moment in an ever-changing environment. Wanting to stay true to the experience, I rarely add or subtract from my perspective. Whether I am painting on site, *en plein air*, or from a reference photograph, I find it more satisfactory to find the beauty in the subtle occurrences in every scene.



John Steele in his studio; image courtesy of artist



John Steele's studio; image courtesy of artist

In 2014, I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a result of a 14-month exposure to Agent Orange. It has made the process of painting a little more interesting and challenging for me, sometimes having to use two hands to steady my brush, or utilizing painters' tape to make a straight line. In that time, my technique and style of my paintings has changed, but my message has not. I hope in some way that the viewer can see what I saw—feel the wind and smell the sage.

Artwork

All work available for purchase. Art shown to scale; measurements reflect image size, without framing.



Two Mesas
Oil on canvas
12"H x 24"W



Mesa
Oil on canvas
18"H x 24"W

Both my "mesa" paintings are from northern Arizona, near Monument Valley.

Utah Shadows
Oil on canvas
12"H x 24"W

I photographed the source image for this painting along the San Juan River, near Bluff, Utah.

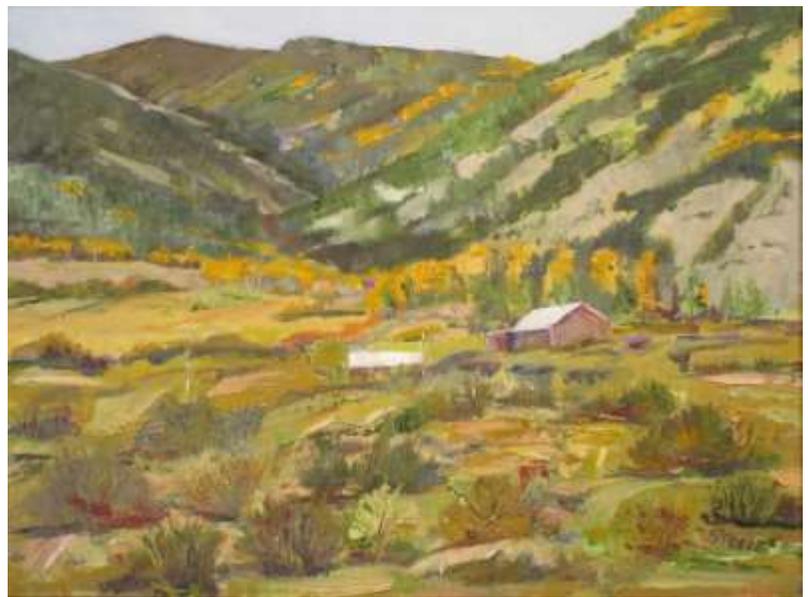


Telluride VW
Oil on canvas
14"H x 18"W

*I saw this just off the Gondola in Telluride, walking
back to the hotel—classic Colorado!*



Timber
Oil on canvas
14"H x 11"W



Homestead
Oil on canvas; 18"H x 24"W
Near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

High Country
Oil on canvas
12"H x 24"W





Foothills
Oil on canvas; 16"H x 20"W



Gray Snow
Oil on canvas
11"H x 14"W

Three views from the Never Summer Range, astride the Continental Divide, Colorado.



October Snow
Oil on canvas
12"H x 24"W

Sunset
Oil on canvas
11"H x 14"W



*Two views from Rocky Mountain
National Park, Colorado.*

10,000 ft.
Oil on canvas
16"H x 20"W

On the Trail Ridge Road.



End of Valley
Oil on canvas
16"H x 20"W



Milner Pass
Oil on canvas
8"H x 10"W

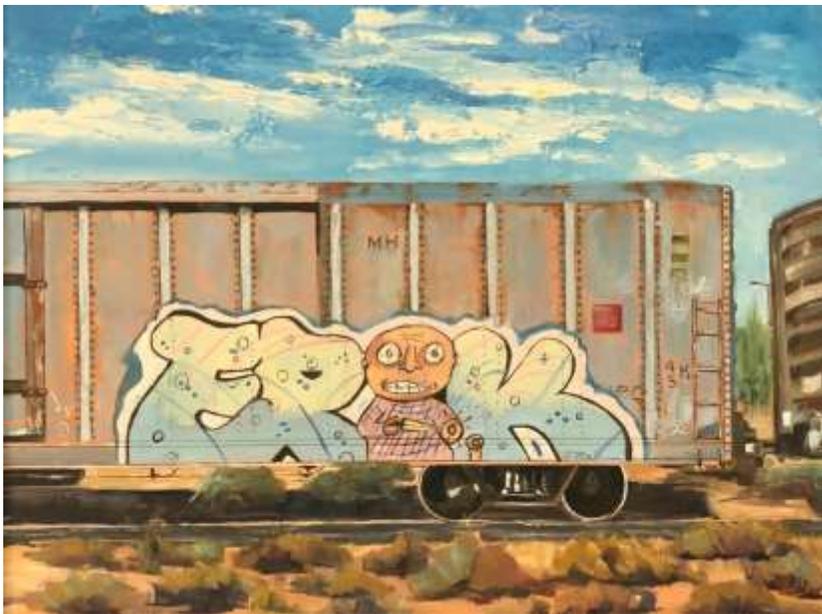
Driving over the Continental Divide, northern Colorado.



Purple Mountains
Oil on canvas
12"H x 24"W

Carmel Creek
Oil on canvas
16"H x 20"W

*Between Big Sur and Monterey,
California.*



Train
Oil on canvas
18"H x 24"W

*Outside of Fort Collins, Colorado, I
saw the perfect opportunity to
combine my traditional landscape
with contemporary abstract painting,
courtesy of "Erik."*

North South
Oil on canvas
16"H x 20"W

*I saw this barn while driving through
northern South Dakota, on the way to
Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.*



Yellow Light
Oil on canvas
11"H x 14"W

*Walden, Colorado,
West side of the Rocky Mountains.*



Stock Pond
Oil on canvas
18"H x 24"W

*Two views of the Big Horn Mountains,
Ten Sleep, Wyoming.*



Mountain Rocks
Oil on canvas
18"H x 24"W



Snowy Mountains
Oil on canvas; 24"H x 36"W

Copper Mountain, Colorado.



Bus Stop
Oil on canvas
24"H x 24"W

View from the window of my old studio in Johnstown, Colorado, looking west toward the Rocky Mountains.



Rio

Oil on canvas; 18"H x 36"W

Rio Grande River, between Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Steele Painting: Western Landscape by John Steele

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Art photography by the artist and 20 North Gallery.

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