



Meadowlark Lake, Big Horns, WY Oil 36" x 42"



Red Dog Ranch, Wilsall, MT, Oil 13" x 15"

“NEW WEST” EXPRESSIONISM

by Gerald Celente, Director, Trends Research Institute

The Wild West is not so wild anymore, and the art that once defined the rugged spirit, wide open spaces and native lore has given way to a new art genre that captures the "New West."

Replacing the old school romanticism that framed the images of the frontier in an idolized and picture perfect profile of a time long gone by, is a bold, joyous and colorful expression that brings to life the 21st century American West.

Rather than a precise replication or classic impressionism that is representative in most western art genre, “New West” presents an interpretative sensitivity that amplifies the subject matter beyond the natural state or static condition. Stylized by the use of vibrant colors, harmonious arrangements and overlapping brushstrokes, an embellished imagery energizes the artistic composition.

A pioneer of this “New West” art is K.L. McKenna who grew up riding the range, prospecting the earth, living in the great outdoors and camping under the magnificent big West sky. Ms. McKenna spent her youth with her renowned paleontologist father digging for dinosaur bones and hunting for fossils. From the deserts, mountains and plains of Wyoming, Colorado and Montana, K.L. McKenna's unique experiences as her father's apprentice gave her a taste of the soil, a feel of the stones and a view of the Galaxy that is seen and felt with each stroke of her brush.

"I was fortunate to have been brought up in a family that honored and cherished nature," said Ms. McKenna. "The way I was taught to explore and prospect the land gave me a sensitive appreciation and ability to evoke the divine essence of the natural west in all my paintings."

Indeed, that true love and respect for the beauty and bountifulness of Earth is seen in the expressions of joy, spirit, hope and grandness that spreads across the canvas of each of K.L. McKenna's works of art. And the magic that brings her paintings alive - in landscapes, figures, and still lifes - is in an artistry that holds to a constant recognizable style while simultaneously blending a vibrant expressionism that fittingly welcomes the soul to the "New West."