

October 2009

John Pototschnik Fine Art

Newsletter

“Big shot” Wylie artist, with the Water Department, gets his story

I've had some fun with this story and I know several of you have enjoyed it as well. If you remember, last month I gave an account of my visit to The Wylie News with the intention of “testing the water” to see if they would be interested in doing a story about my upcoming show at Greenhouse Gallery. Thinking that I literally wanted to test the water, the emphatic answer was, “NO!” Then I showed them my work. This is the result.....

Local artist featured in San Antonio exhibit

Wylie places, scenes inspired popular paintings

By Judy Truesdell, Staff Writer

John Pototschnik’s name may not be easy to pronounce, but his works of art are certainly easy on the eye. His oil paintings, many of which were recently featured in an art show at the Greenhouse Gallery in San Antonio, are treasured and collected by art aficionados around the world.

Many Wylie collectors also hang Pototschnik’s work on their walls and with good reason: many of his paintings depict scenes Wylie residents see out their windows every day.

The show, which is ongoing until Sept. 19, is called “A Celebration of Three Artists,” and features the work of Pototschnik, Calvin Liang and Darcie Peet.

Pototschnik was born in St. Ives, Cornwall, England but grew up in Wichita, Kan. “Like any child, I enjoyed drawing, but I especially enjoyed building model cars and planes,” he said. “In high school, I could draw cars better than anyone else. However, I never considered art as a livelihood.”

He entered college as a business major but, after a single semester of business classes, realized this was not to be his life’s work. “I consulted with my school counselor and, trying a few other things, I eventually switched my major to art. I never felt I had talent. I just had a persevering interest and was willing to work very hard.”

He studied advertising design at Wichita State University and then received instruction in illustration and design at Art Center College in Los Angeles. He also studied human anatomy at the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts in Old Lyme, Conn.

In 1982, Pototschnik began painting professionally. Prior to that time, he had worked as a freelance illustrator for 10 years with many of Dallas’ major advertising agencies and companies.

“As a freelance illustrator, I loved the variety of assignments I was given,” he said of his years in the advertising world. “I worked with some wonderful people and always enjoyed seeing my work reproduced in magazines and newspapers. It was always very satisfying to deliver an illustration on time, regardless of the deadline, and receive approval for the work.”

He said the “unbelievable deadlines” were a factor in his choice to leave that field and pursue a career in fine arts.

Pototschnik, who has created more than 3,000 paintings, lives in Wylie with his wife Marcia. The Pototschniks have two grown sons. He moved to Wylie in 1980 and, in 1986, was commissioned by Truett Smith to do a painting of early downtown Wylie as part of Wylie’s centennial celebration. That work was called “Wylie, Texas – The Early Years.”

“My earliest paintings of the Wylie area were of the old, half-burned-out box car that was seen along FM 544 and a beautifully weathered barn, also along the highway,” he said. “These two subjects were used in a series of paintings I did depicting the coexistence of the oil industry and wildlife. It was this series of six paintings that launched my fine art career.”

Another early painting was of the old Murphy Grocery. “I have since done two other significant paintings of the store; the most recent was commissioned by the city of Murphy in 2008 and hangs in their city hall,” Pototschnik said.

Wylie businessman Raymond Cooper has a collection of Pototschnik’s work, as do Charlotte and Gary Bowland, owners of the Ballard Street Café and Grill.

Pototschnik has been a popular speaker and juror among art organizations. His paintings are part of many private collections from Hawaii to Rhode Island and, overseas, from England to Crete. His work is also represented in several public collections, including cities, banks, corporations and museums.

He is a past president of Artists and Craftsmen Associated and the Plano Art Association. He has been honored with four George Washington Honor Medals from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, the John Steven Jones Fellowship, plus many other regional, national and international awards.

His work has appeared in such magazines as First, The Artist’s Magazine, Southwest Art, American Artist, PleinAir Magazine, American Art Collector, and International Artist, plus six books. He is recognized in “Who’s Who in American Art” and “Who’s Who in the Southwest.”

“I find it satisfying to paint the ordinary, common, everyday scenes we just pass by without giving them a second thought,” he said. “I attempt to take the ordinary and make it extraordinary. I would like my work to cause people to pause because they are emotionally moved by something that they normally take for granted or consider less than beautiful.”

Pototschnik said he plans to continue painting Wylie scenes. “I have done many paintings of Wylie over the years and will continue to do so. I find some of the old houses and neighborhoods interesting. Parts of Wylie remind me of small town America, and that’s the heart and soul of what I paint.”

Out of his immense body of work, can Pototschnik pick a favorite?

“I cannot answer that question,” he said. “Every painting is special in its own way because of the various challenges it presents. The answer artists like to give to that question is ... ‘The next one.’”

To see the paintings featured in the San Antonio celebration, visit Greenhouse.Gallery.com.

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2010

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As usual, those whom collect my original paintings or have studied with me within the last three years will be receiving a free calendar.

If you do not fall into this group, you may purchase a calendar for \$22.00 each. If you purchase more than one, the price is \$18.00 per calendar. Order yours today. The price includes tax, postage and handling. They make beautiful gifts. Send check to:

John Pototschnik
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