

Visitors to see painters lay color on canvas

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Artists will work live at Shadow Mountain Gallery

By Kelsey Dayton

Jackson Hole - Shadow Mountain Gallery will offer art appreciators a chance to witness the creation of oil paintings during the Fall Arts Festival.

Starting Saturday, Sept. 13, the gallery will host various artists who will be working on pieces while people watch, said Safa Darwiche, gallery owner.

It is an opportunity for people to get a deeper understanding of how a piece of art is created, Darwiche said. Visitors will get a chance to ask questions of the artists while they work.

Artists in the gallery are Western and wildlife painters, Darwiche said.

One who will be working at the gallery is Aaron Yount of Illinois. Working in front of an audience allows people to see the evolution of a piece, Yount said. They can come back on different days or even later on the same day and see new techniques and how the piece has changed. Questions asked about the process become a good jumping off point to talk about the finished piece, he said.

Yount, who will be working Wednesday, Sept. 17 through Saturday, Sept. 20, will be showcasing oil and acrylic painting of animals in the Yellowstone and Grand Teton area, he said.

Yount takes a realistic approach to his pieces. "When people look at my work I want them to know that is the way the animal behaves and that is how the animal looks in its environment," he said. "It's a real honest approach to the subject."

The live work has become a tradition at the gallery, Darwiche said. Most people don't realize how hard and painstaking it is to create a piece until they have watched an artist work, she said. "It's a beautiful process to witness."