

# Western painters daub on site during fest

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## Four artists will chat with patrons, paint at Shadow Mountain Gallery

By Laura Cianci

**Jackson Hole** - The bison are so vivid they appear to be advancing toward viewers, forcing them to step back.

That is just one example of how realistically Aaron Yount paints wildlife. Yount's work will be on display at Shadow Mountain Gallery during the Fall Arts Festival. Yount, 32, is one of four artists-in-residence at the gallery on different dates throughout the festival.

A relative newcomer to the art scene, Yount was born and raised in rural Illinois where his interest in wildlife, and wildlife art, began. After discovering the work of artists Robert Bateman and John Seerey Lester, among others, he was hooked, but not yet as committed to art as he is now.

Then, when he discovered a relative was "Rocky Mountain" Harry Yount, who was Yellowstone National Park's first gamekeeper, he was further inspired. Yount asserts that knowledge gave him a greater focus for his work.

"I've been encouraged by family and friends all my life to pursue my art, and then in the last six years I put more emphasis on it and dedicated more time," he said.

Though Yount has taken classes with well-known artists, he has learned a great deal by studying the work of artists that captured his imagination. He finds that

Yellowstone National park offers a wealth of subjects.

"There are inspirations around every corner there," he said.

Yount will bring four new pieces to the festival, including one featuring a pair of trumpeter swans and another of a bull elk. He will be in the gallery to discuss his work with patrons from Sept. 10 to 12.

Following Yount at the gallery will be Utah resident Richard Miles, a well-known Western landscape artist who has been exhibiting at the gallery since 1987. He will be on-site from Sept. 13 to 14. Gallery sales associate Dorian Darwiche says Miles' landscapes are coveted by collectors. One of his paintings, *Dead Horse Point*, shows the Colorado River cutting through a red rock canyon. It won grand prize and best of show awards at the Utah State Fair.

"I paint what I enjoy painting and try to keep everything original," said the 69-year-old artist, who is always on the look out for new subjects. "I don't paint the same thing twice."

For Miles, "painting is a joy," he said, that he revels in daily. Miles began dabbling in the arts when he was 3 or 4 years old. In those days, miles' family didn't have a television set and so he had to entertain himself after his brother, who was three years older, left for school. "My mom was

into crafts and I just started to draw and color,” he said. “There weren’t a lot of coloring books.”

His love affair with art continued through high school, but instead of pursuing it, he became a civil engineer and a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.

When he retired in 1986, Miles decided to make art his second career. “I could afford it at the point because I had a retirement income,” he said. “I didn’t have to worry about selling paintings to live on.”

In addition to Yount and Miles, artist Rhonda Freison will be sculpting on Sept. 8 and 9 at the gallery and Robert Walton will be painting Sept. 15 and 16.

Hors d’oeuvres and cocktails will be served every day during the festival.