

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 27 works on show
Sept. 25-Oct. 18, 2008

Simpson Gallagher Gallery
1161 Sheridan Avenue
Cody, WY 82414
(307) 587-4022

SHOW LOCATION CODY, WY**T. ALLEN LAWSON**

On home ground

They say you can never go home again. Not because home is different, but because you're different. Home is a memory, and such fond recollections of his native Wyoming is what inspired T. Allen Lawson's new exhibition in 13 years of Western subject matter. Appropriately titled *On Home Ground*, this solo show represents Lawson's first in the West since 1995. It will be mounted at Simpson Gallagher Gallery in Cody, Wyo., beginning Sept. 25.

Seven years ago Lawson moved to Maine, where he has spent the past five years painting New England scenery and exhibiting along the East Coast. His new work encompasses only Western subjects that derived from several trips during the last 20 months to places like Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and Utah.

"My subconscious is accustomed to the great Rocky Mountain states and the expanse of it. When you live in a place, you don't always fully appreciate the

essence of it until you leave. Then you really start to desire and pine for the West in a new sense," says Lawson. "Having removed myself from the West, I've been drawn toward that emptiness of the middle part of the state, particularly the harsh light. It has been fun and challenging to convey that intense light and sparseness that you get in the West."

Returning as a native son to his home state gives Lawson a different perspective on that which is so familiar. He has made a conscious effort not to



End of Winter, Old Yellowstone Highway, oil on linen, 24 x 34"



Summer's Epilogue, oil on linen, 16 x 28"



Summer Veil, oil on linen, 20 x 16"

The Gallery Says . . .

"What is particularly exciting about this body of work is its perspective. T. Allen Lawson is no longer a resident of the West (he currently resides in Rockport, Maine), nor is he merely a visitor, his 'place' is different; he is an artist returning home, a native son who now sees, feels and paints through the lens of leaving and coming back. This show allows us to walk with him as once again he paints on home ground."

*—Chuck Neustifter, director,
Simpson Gallagher Gallery*



Chasing Night, oil, 12 x 14"

paint a romanticized West, but rather to depict its more intimate and quieter side. Lawson's new work, which includes mostly oils with a few field studies and drawings in mixed media and watercolor, concentrates on rhythms, patterns, and proportions in a representational and painterly style. Painting in many layers, these landscapes are more tonal than past works.

"Overall, I'm excited about the whole body," says Lawson. "Two of the largest pieces I've ever attempted to paint are in this show. Trying to capture the expanse of the West is difficult to do on a 4-by-5-foot canvas."

For Lawson, the subject almost becomes irrelevant as he frequently uses his artistic license to add and delete elements in nature to make a piece work. He says he's most pleased with those paintings that

come closest to his original inspiration. An ideal example can be seen in *End of Winter, Old Yellowstone Highway*.

"What I was drawn to is the strong patterns of the snow that sit in the ditches along the road," Lawson says. "I will purposely darken elements of the road to play up contrast and the texture of the grass."

While he uses nature's colors as a guideline, Lawson doesn't push specific palettes, but rather allows the painting to follow its own path. In this piece, he leads the eye with bright ribbons of snow in abstract patterns while the warm yellow grass plays against the violet road and stark blue sky.

In *Summer's Epilogue*, Lawson purposely uses muted colors to enhance the vibrancy of the intense cobalt blue sky. The artist emphasizes Mother Nature's

dormancy phase by incorporating a bluff with rolling pine and aspen trees, offset with a dusting of snow on the top ridge.

"It was fun working on," Lawson says from his 50-acre homestead in Maine. "I love the cobalt blue shadows in the pine trees."

Painting in the tradition of earlier artists, Lawson has an eye for subtle beauty that's apparent throughout his work. Inspiration, he says, comes as a lightning bolt. It may be a subject that he frequently walks past or something as simple as a fish swimming upstream. Preferring to work from drawings and notes, it's not uncommon for Lawson to spend up to a year honing a painting.

"If I'm learning anything, it's that I don't know what I'm doing," he jests. "If I have the time and am able to live with a painting long enough, and my inspiration



Winter Palette, oil on gesso board, 12 x 12"

is strong enough, I can work through my difficulties and complete a painting. What happens a lot is I get excited about starting a painting and start it right away, then, over six months, my interest wanes, and the painting dies on the easel. I've learned that when that happens it's probably a good thing. If you have the desire to continue to work then those are the dearest to you."

Lawson's strong sense of design and nuances of color appeal to a broad collector base that ranges from Wall Street businessmen to political world figures. With nearly 25 years experience under

his belt, Lawson has had successful exhibitions in Washington, D.C., New York, Wyoming, California, Connecticut, Maine and Massachusetts. While his career has enjoyed a steady evolution, he says it accelerated over the last 18 months, thanks to two sell-out exhibitions in Maine.

"I'm a serious student that's constantly growing and changing as my perceptions of the world around me change," he concludes. 🖌️

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to



www.westernartcollector.com

Price Range Indicator

Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.

	Small	Medium	Large
1996	\$1,500-\$2,000	\$3,500-\$6,000	N/A
2001	\$2,500-\$4,000	\$6,000-\$12,000	\$12,000-\$15,000
2008	\$4,000-\$6,000	\$10,000-\$24,000	\$28,000-\$70,000