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**15 Artists
Interpret
The Colorado
Landscape**

**Constructing
"Pathways" Into
Paintings**

**Making Shadows
Important**



COVER: CURT WALTERS, BY JASON GAILLARD

Interpretations of the Colorado Landscape

BY M. STEPHEN DOHERTY

Here's a report on the fifteen artists invited by American Artist and Forbes, Inc., to paint the mountains, streams, wildlife, and vegetation on the expansive Forbes Trinchera Ranch in southern Colorado.

On several occasions in the past, *American Artist* has invited groups of artists to paint together at a common site in order for the magazine to develop an article on how each person interpreted that place. Last June, the magazine and Forbes, Inc., (publisher of *Forbes* and *American Heritage* magazines and owner of an extensive art collection) invited a group of outstanding artists who work in a variety of styles, mediums, and techniques to paint the two-hundred-fifty-square-mile Forbes Trinchera Ranch near Fort Garland, Colorado. A sample of the paintings created by those artists is presented here and will be displayed in an exhibition at the Forbes Galleries in New York City from January 24 through March 15.



Above: The artists who painted at the Forbes Trinchera Ranch.

Below: *Trinchera Peak 13,517 Feet*, by Clyde Aspevig, 1996, oil, 30 x 40. All artwork this article collection the artist unless otherwise indicated.



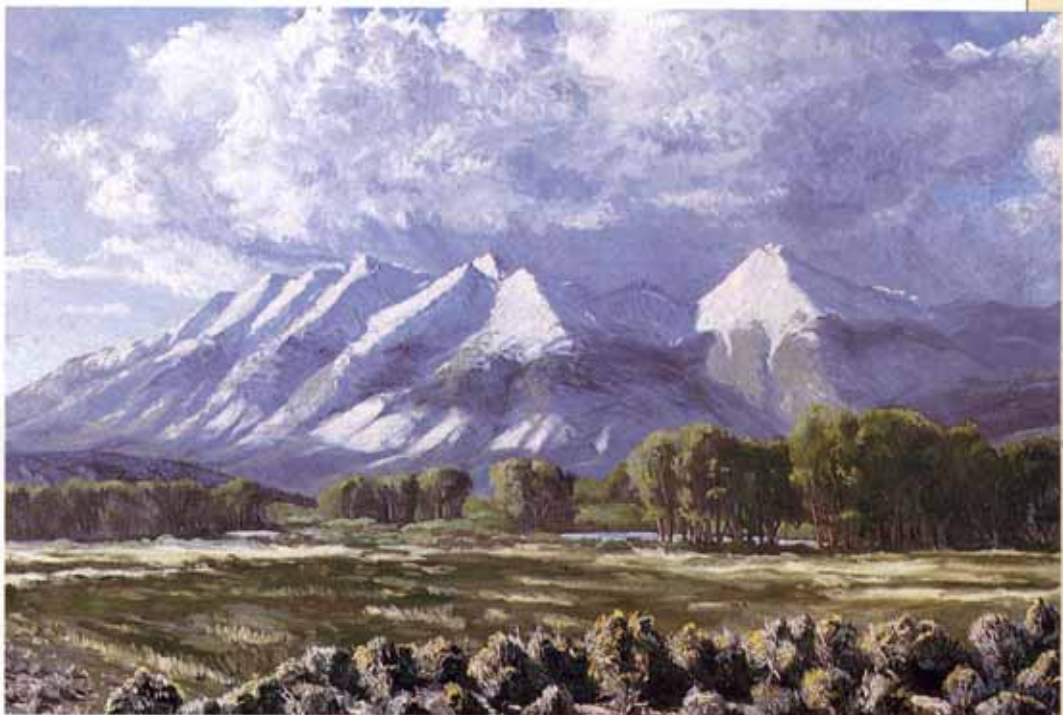
DAVID MONTGOMERY

Also a resident of the area, David Montgomery was familiar with the southern Colorado landscape. The invitation to participate in this project, however, gave him a rare opportunity to set up his large canvases along the hundreds of miles of private roads that crisscross the ranch. He made a point of choosing spots that would not be available when the gates along those roads were once again padlocked.

The large scale of his paintings required Montgomery to return to the same location three or four times, and frequently he had to call upon his memory to paint part of a mountain or field that had disappeared behind the clouds and mist. To complete the large painting he was working on when photographed for this article, Montgomery went back three more times after the other artists had returned to their homes.

A wash of raw sienna on the large canvases gave Montgomery a warm undertone on which to work. He established the overall pattern of light and shadow during the first painting session and then concentrated on smaller areas during subsequent trips to the location. The size of the canvases necessitated the use of weights to anchor his French easel. Knowing how intense the sunlight can be at high altitudes, he kept his head covered and wore protective sunglasses. ■

M. Stephen Doherty is the editor-in-chief of American Artist.



Above: *Sierra Blanca From Trinchera*, by David Montgomery, 1996, oil, 32 x 48.



Below: *Hoo-Doos*, by David Montgomery, 1996, oil, 32 x 48.

David Montgomery was born in Bismarck, North Dakota, and moved to Colorado when he was six, where he has since resided. He earned a B.F.A. degree from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He has had a number of solo exhibitions and his work has been displayed in juried shows in Colorado, including those organized by the San Luis Cultural Center, the Sangre de Cristo Arts & Conference Center in Pueblo, the Durango Fine Arts Center, the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, and Adams State College in Alamosa. He has created murals and limited-edition prints for various Colorado institutions and shows his paintings with several Colorado galleries, among them the Cottonwood Inn Gallery and the Fireworks Gallery, both in Alamosa; the Meerfeld Gallery in Saguache; and Rare Things Gallery in Creede. He maintains a studio in Alamosa.

