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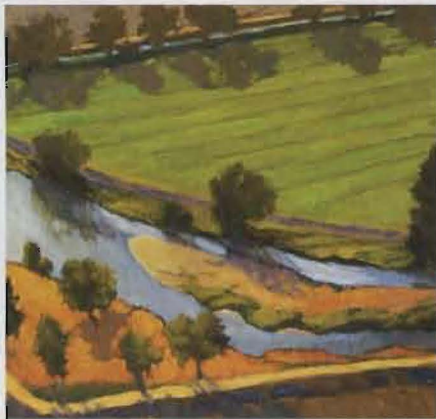


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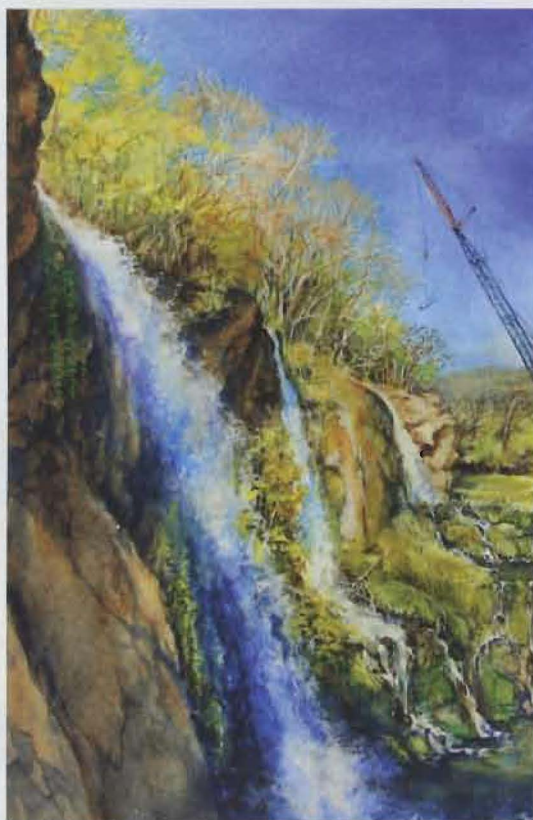
Stock Show artists explore the best of the (new) West.

When the National Western Stock Show rolls into town every January, it brings along its sidekick, the Coors Western Art Exhibit and Sale, a collection of the West's finest contemporary artwork. But what does it really mean to be an artist in today's West? "There's much more to Western art than nostalgic cowboys and Indians and covered wagons," says the show's curator and *5280* contributor Rose Fredrick. Among this year's exhibitors are four local artists who capture the emerging realities of the region. —REBECCA CARO



✦ **DAN YOUNG** "Barns and Bales" Landscape artist Dan Young grew up in Glenwood Springs, and though he left for a time, Colorado's scenery called him back. "The West is home to me," he says. "I try to capture the feeling of home in my paintings." Young paints on location with an awareness of man's ever-invading footprint. "Painting the old family ranches that are disappearing has become sort of a silent mission for me," he says. "You see all these subdivisions taking over; I try to paint those places before they're gone."

♣ **BUFF ELTING** "River Project 1" Buff Elting's riverscapes are inspired by flying over Colorado with her husband (a pilot). "I began noticing how much things were changing," she says. "The water in the West is one of the most critical issues we face. I try to bring awareness to it."



◀ **DON STINSON** "Rifle Falls: Restructured"

Don Stinson's dramatic landscapes represent the juncture where nature and artificial design meet. Here, he depicts a pristine waterfall that was artificially constructed by redesigning the terrain. "It's an extremely beautiful, lush landscape," Stinson says, "but there are signs of the man-made aspect to it. It's the idea of constructing nature." Stinson includes "relics of the 20th century"—a bulldozer, dump truck, or crane—in his paintings.



♣ **STEVE KESTREL** "Salient Dirge" Sculptor Steve Kestrel pulls stone directly from the river bed on his 43-acre ranch property in rural Redstone Canyon and uses a technique called "direct carving," which lets the shape evolve directly from a chalk-drawn image on the stone. "One of my goals has been to redefine the term 'Western art,'" he says, "because it's been changed by clichés." His art pays homage to the natural world, like this toad contemplating its habitat and the oncoming ripples of change. "My aim is to elevate the animal world," he says, "and point out some of the damage that we're responsible for."