



The Iconic Western Watercolors of Linda Loeschen

ARTICLE ROARING FORK STAFF | PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED

THESE DAYS, YOU LIVE ON A RANCH NEAR BASALT. WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO BASALT AND THE ROARING FORK VALLEY?

I grew up in New Jersey. My first husband hit a tree while skiing and was killed. My daughter and I visited Aspen on our way to California to see relatives and immediately fell in love with this friendly, beautiful area. We moved here in 1975, when she was 9.

Later, in 1981, when we moved to Basalt, people said, "What are you moving down there for?" Well, we have a wonderful little ranch, horses, peace and space.

ON YOUR WEBSITE, YOU TALK ABOUT BEING TRAINED AT PARSON'S IN NEW YORK, THEN STARTING TO PAINT LEE'S DENIM WORK SHIRT. WHAT WERE YOU PAINTING BEFORE YOU STARTED IN ON WESTERN GEAR?

I went to New York University and the Parsons School of Design, concurrently. At Parsons, I studied interior design, and mainly painted interior renderings for other designers.

I was in a restaurant in New York one day, and could have sworn I had been there



before. Then I realized I had painted a rendering of it! It turned out exactly as I had painted it.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Everything inspires me! I'm constantly looking at how light hits an object, a person, a tree or anything. Colors, shapes, textures, shadows... I could go on and on! It's not good when I'm driving.

YOU HAVE A GALLERY OF IMAGES CALLED "LITTLE RANCH HANDS" WHICH PORTRAYS CHILDREN IN WESTERN CLOTHES. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN OF YOUR OWN? ARE THEY INTERESTED IN CREATING ART?

My daughter, Erika, had a clothing store in Basalt called ETC. She's passionate about fashion and has a keen eye in that field. I only go shopping when I have to. I could learn a lot about art from my granddaughter.

I feel everyone has some form of creativity within them. It's just a matter of discovering where that talent lies.

YOU HAVE QUITE A FEW PAINTINGS OF BEARS. THIS FALL, LOTS OF FOLKS IN CARBONDALE, BASALT AND EVEN GLENWOOD SPRINGS HAD BEARS IN THE YARD. YOU TOO? ARE YOU PAINTING THE BEARS FROM LIFE?

We have had several bear sightings from my house from which I've taken several pictures. My husband and I went to Alaska and saw



several grizzlies, and I've visited Bear World twice in Idaho. I have loads of my own photos of bears.

DESCRIBE YOUR ART.

I very seldom use the primary colors in my paintings. The secondary colors, purple, orange and green seem to be my favored palette, and mixtures of those. I always tend to paint negatively, meaning around the subject.

If you look at my paintings that way, you will find the space between the subjects, such as the legs of a group of horses, or the stems of grasses, will be varied and interesting. I love movement in my work, perhaps as a result of all my years as a dancer.

WHEN IS YOUR NEXT SHOW?

My next show is called The Russell. It raises money for the C.M. Russell Museum in Montana and I'm thrilled to have been one of the artists chosen to be in the auction. It attracts collectors of western art from all over the world. [Note: The C.M. Russell Museum houses one of the nation's finest collections of American Western art, and it is the home of the world's most complete collection of the art and memorabilia of famed Western artist Charles M. Russell.]

