

Painters highlight land trust's good efforts

Who: Bill Sawczuk, Jennifer L. Hoffman and Kathryn Mapes Turner
What: Landscape painting exhibition
When: 5-8 p.m. Friday
Where: Trio Fine Art gallery
How much: Free
Web: View22.JHLandTrust.org

By Josh Cooper

For the many landscape painters who call Jackson Hole home, open spaces to paint are nearly as important as paintbrushes and canvases.

To that end the three artists of Trio Fine Art, the gallery located on North Cache Street, took on the task of painting some of the area's spaces preserved with the assistance of the Jackson

Hole Land Trust.

Starting in early summer, Bill Sawczuk, Jennifer L. Hoffman and Kathryn Mapes Turner worked on painting 18 trust-protected properties around the valley. Their work will be shown for the first time at an exhibit that opens with a reception 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at the gallery.

Conservation the goal

The painters presented the idea to the land trust in May. Since then the artists have been going out regularly and painting en plein air. For some of their painting sessions the artists invited the public to watch the process. Turner said the goal is all about conservation.

"What our hope is that

through art we can bring awareness about the open space and the conservation efforts to preserve it," Turner said. "As landscape painters we value the open space. We thought that this was a good way to give back."

Laurie Andrews, the land trust's executive director, said she was thrilled when the idea was presented to her.

"I was blown away," she said. "I love when things that people might not necessarily associate come together. I knew the artists would inspire people to look at this land differently."

The land trust's goal is to work with landowners to preserve large tracts of land and important habitat, scenic and agricultural lands for future generations, Andrews said. She hopes the artists' "View 22" project will help Jacksonites realize that the vast open lands in the valley are there because someone fought to keep them open.

No accident

"A lot of people realize our work, but they drive by it every day and take the scenery for granted," Andrews said. "It helps people to also know that the open space they value and see and think is beautiful is there by design, it didn't happen by accident."

Areas the artists painted include Snake River Ranch, Bar B Bar Ranch, Rock-



For the past six months, the three painters of Trio Fine Art have been working on tracts of land protected by the Jackson Hole Land Trust. The work goes on display Friday at the gallery.



Bill Sawczuk rendered the Huyler barn at Rocking H Ranch. Jennifer L. Hoffman painted the view of Sleeping Indian at right, and Kathryn Mapes Turner contributed work as well.

ing H Ranch, Spring Creek Ranch, Walton Ranch, Hansen Ranch, the Hardeman Barns, the Wilson Wetlands Trail, Jenkins Ranch, Circle Shoe Ranch, Trail Creek Ranch and Valley Springs Ranch.

A significant portion of the revenue from paintings sold will benefit the land trust. The show will run through Dec. 21.

Trio Fine Art is open from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays.



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