



Winter Wonderland

By Vicki Stavig

*“Snow falls, and suddenly the landscape is transformed.
It is beautifully austere, ethereal.”*

Jennifer Moses

Something magical, almost mystical occurs with a snowfall. It brings with it great joy, which is readily apparent when you watch a young child seeing snow for the first time, or attempting to swallow the flakes as they fall. They also seem compelled to lay down in it, swinging their arms and legs to and fro as they create snow angels.

Snow evokes a myriad of emotions. It can carry with it a sense of peace and wellbeing that for some involves sitting inside by a fire and watching the snow gently falling outside. On the other hand, it can be exciting for outdoor enthusiasts, who can't wait to strap on a pair of skis or snowshoes and head out to make their marks in it. Snow also brings with it a sense of renewal, covering the landscape in a soft, white blanket, much as a parent might tuck a child into bed at night with the promise of a bright, new day in the morning.

Snow illuminated by the sun or the moon is fascinating, seeming to come alive as passing clouds change its color or winds change its texture. Artists who paint the snow say they do so for many reasons, including being captivated by its “vibration of colors,” its reflective qualities, and the patterns of light and shadow on those glistening, frozen jewels.

As it is with most things in life, it's better to show you than tell you. So, we invite you to sit back and enjoy the words and works of six talented artists who celebrate snow.

Vicki Stavig is editor of Art of the West.





JENNIFER MOSES

OJAI, CALIFORNIA

Teton Valley Winter
7" x 12"
Oil

“I often edit the landscapes I paint into simple shapes, using subtle color and value shifts to create form. As snow blankets the landscape, it simplifies the underlying elements. This allows for beautiful, high key color shifts throughout the surface, creating patterns of light and shadow. Tree trunks and brush emerge from the snow, revealing glimpses of what is hidden below.

“Many of my winter scenes are from the Midwest—Colorado, Kansas, and Utah. I often sketch and make color notes on location. Exploration and travel is a vital component in finding new and exciting inspiration. It allows me to immerse myself in a variety of disparate landscapes that brings about new challenges and ways of communication visually.

“When painting snow, I want the viewer to witness the snow-covered vista before them, hear the quiet crunch below their feet, breathe the chilled air, and be enveloped by ethereality.”