

Michael Griffin will be one of two artists on display at Wyoming Gallery during the Fall Arts Festival. *Snowcaps and Cottonwoods*, a 30- by 16.5-inch oil, will hang in the show.

Griffin depicts West in 'painterly realism'

Nashville-based artist takes work to Wyoming Gallery.

By Noah Brenner

Like many artists, Michael Griffin knew at a young age that he had a passion for art, but it took him a bit longer to find landscapes to match his talents.

After graduating college in Atlanta as an illustrator, Griffin made his way to Jackson Hole looking for more artistic freedom and found the valley and its surrounding mountains.

"The West has always captured my imagination and always represented adventure," Griffin said.

He stayed in Jackson for about two years, painting almost daily and studying iconic Western landscape art until he found his own style.

"I consider it to be loose realism - a painterly realism," he said. "Impressionism plays in more with some subjects than others. If I am trying to create something more atmospheric and moodier I tend to be a little looser and not as detail-oriented."

Though the Jackson Hole area is known for its abundance of charismatic wildlife, Griffin prefers to take a broader, landscape-wide view. "I love environments, and I love the moods and the feelings of different areas of this country," he said. "I am attempting to capture what these places mean to me and how they affect me."

To capture the local landscape, Griffin often hikes into the mountains - Death Canyon is a favorite - to complete small studies of the landscape and take photos. He then uses both as references for his larger works. "I will rework the composition to fit my needs and find something that is artistic and structured," he said.

Griffin can be found in his Nashville studio, working on Western landscapes and representations of some coastal environs almost daily. However, Griffin will be at the gallery for a reception from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Friday during Palates and Palettes.

In addition to the Griffin show, Wyoming

Gallery will also feature the work of Wyoming native Albin Veselka during the Fall Arts Festival. Veselka will be on hand for an opening reception on Sept. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the gallery. Born in Casper in 1979, Veselka's work is some of the only figurative art featured in the gallery.

"Figurative is a new thing for him, and it is for us as well," gallery director Corrine Elliott said.



Griffin captures open landscape in his work, such as *Hoback R*

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Death Canyon Crest 26x30 oil

ARTIST RECEPTION

Michael Griffin

September 12th 5 to 8 p.m.



On the Town Square
the Jack Dennis Gallery
50 East Broadway • Jackson Wyoming
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