

Photo courtesy of Gary R. Huber.

*"POINTS OF LIGHT: TAGGART LAKE"*  
2007, pastel  
18" x 24"

# GARY HUBER

## Pastel Artist Connects Through Work



Photo courtesy of Dave Stotzel.

*Gary Huber gathering reference material in the Bighorn Mountains.*

ties into some of life's most enduring experiences, like hiking and camping as a kid or making hay on the old family farm."

If a painting's viewer loves what they see, a connection is made not only between the viewer and the subject but with the artist as well.

So believes Gary Huber, a pastel landscape artist based in Buffalo, Wyo. Huber paints what he loves: landscapes, mostly those of mountain regions and the farmland of his native Pennsylvania. By depicting his emotional response to a landscape, he hopes viewers of his artwork will also love what he sees.

Huber, 54, decides what to paint based on "what I feel a strong connection with," he said. "It's an emotional thing that





Photo courtesy of Gary R. Huber.

*"WINTER MORNING BARN"*  
2006, pastel  
24" x 18"

Although Huber's work has a painterly quality, he executes most of his pieces using pastels. His technique involves layering colors, sometimes glazing one color over another until the desired effect is achieved.

Huber employs painterly techniques partly because he began his artistic journey working in oils. But he has always enjoyed drawing, and so



discovered pastels: an expressive painting medium that uses hand movements similar to drawing.

"I really like the immediate experience of holding my hand close to the surface as I paint. Sometimes it feels as if the color is just flowing from my fingertips," Huber said.

Huber became a full-time artist only five years ago after a rather more scientific career. He built computer software to enable landscape visualization of the sort used in film production, forestry projects and land use renderings. His software continues to sell worldwide through a company called 3D Nature.

In some form or other, though, Huber has been artistically active throughout his life. His mother was a professional artist "who taught me to admire creativity," he said. "My first experiences of painting were going out with her carrying my little box of oils and painting whatever she painted."



Photo courtesy of Gary R. Huber.

*"TETON AFTERNOON"*  
2007, pastel  
14" x 11"



Photo courtesy of Gary R. Huber.

*"CONVERGING CURRENTS"*  
2007, pastel  
20" x 16"

Huber's father was an engineer, whose example accounts for Huber's more analytic side. Huber believes growing up with such opposing yet complementary influences has benefited his art.

"I am a bit unusual as an artist in that I am really good with numbers," he said. "My art is a fusion of the detail-oriented approach of my dad and the loose approach of my mom. I'm somewhere in between."

Huber's pieces evince the softness and warmth typical of his medium. Reddish-brown barns in his farmland work add strong hues that attract the eye in pieces that capture cold-weather light and shadows. Pastoral farm and ranch scenes appear almost as if from a fairy-tale, idealized and cozy yet realistic. Most of Huber's work, though, depicts mountain landscapes devoid of human presence, with smooth lakes and crystal streams running through pine forests and around gray rocks.





Photo courtesy of Gary R. Huber.

*"KEPT UP"*  
2007, pastel  
18" x 24"

Whenever he travels, "I'm always looking for what's paintable," Huber said. "It's a part of my life that's just taken over."

During his computer career, Huber continued to "dabble" with paints. With the ongoing artistic example of his family, he never completely let it go, although he found he "didn't quite click" with watercolors.

His move into full-time art came about partly as a result of meeting his wife, Ann. He had been living in Colorado, but after meeting Ann while on vacation, he decided to move to Wyoming to be with her. Together, they visited the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, and it was there he saw the painting that inspired him to dive into art.

Huber bought books on technique, studied and invested in a new set of oils. Dispensing with classes or workshops, "I just dove in," he said. "I didn't do too badly the first couple times out, and with encouragement from friends and family, I continued."

About three years ago Huber felt he was ready to take his work public, and entered a small show in Buffalo. One of his paintings won an "artists' choice" award.





Photo courtesy of Gary R. Huber.

*"TORREY CREEK MEADOW"  
2007, pastel  
9" x 12"*


*First Place, professional pastel in the 58th Annual Wind River Valley Artists' Guild show.*

"That really kicked me off," he said.

Now, Huber's work is represented by the Foothills Gallery in Sheridan, Wyo. He has been entering shows and winning awards on a frequent basis lately. He is about to participate in the "Grand Illusions: 2007 Members Show" with the Pastel Society of Colorado, and later this year will take part in the "Heart of the West Invitational Art Show and Sale" in Lander, Wyo. and the "Germantown Academy Annual Invitational Art Exhibit" in Pennsylvania.

Although Huber hopes to find a home for his work at a few more galleries, he doesn't by any means intend to speed up his career.

"One of my plans is to slow down and enjoy the journey more," he said. "So often when traveling we tend to be looking to the destination and go there as fast as we can."

"I want to slow down enough to really enjoy places and paint, sketch, draw," Huber said, "and come home with more than just a vague impression of where I've been." 

**For information:**

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**Foothills Gallery ~ 307-672-2068**

**Sheridan, Wyoming**