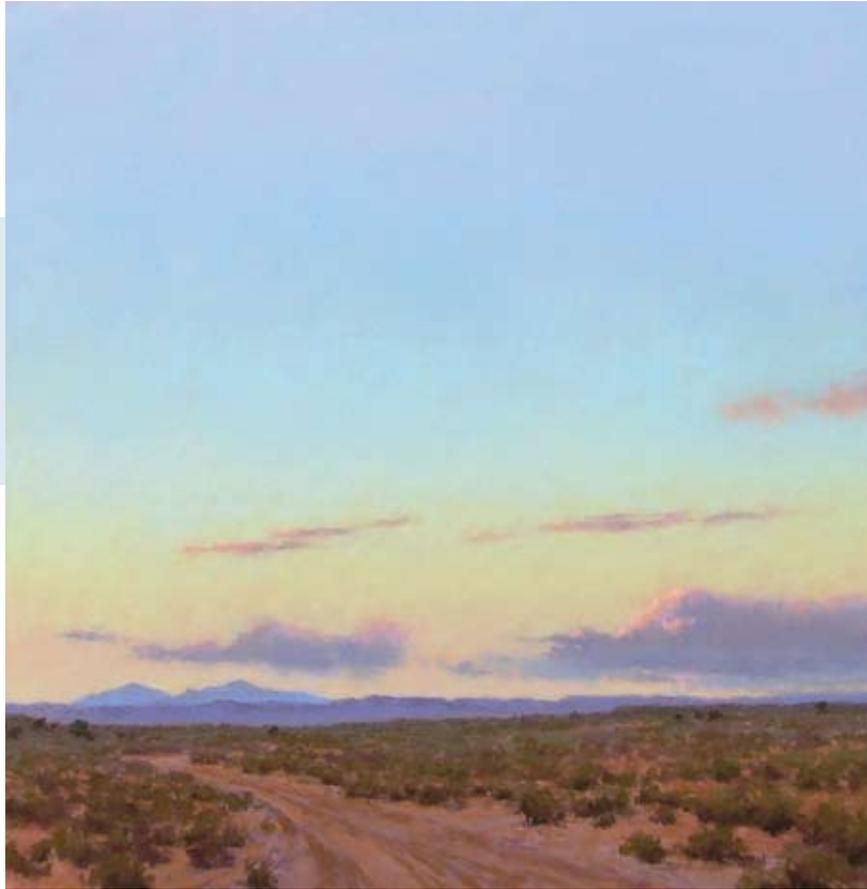


state of the art

Lone Star Scenery

Texas is a big state with a large supply of stunning scenery for the artistic traveler.

Meet **D. LaRue Mahlke**
Hometown • Georgetown, Texas
www.dlaruemahlke.com



Day's End (12x12) by D. LaRue Mahlke

Scenic Hot Spots

Every corner of Texas has something to offer a landscape painter. In western Texas, you'll find big, wide-open scenery—Big Bend National Park, Fort Davis and the Guadalupe Mountains, and Palo Duro Canyon and Caprock Canyon state parks, two lesser known gems in the Panhandle. Travel to southern Texas to see shorelines, estuaries and busy marinas. Head east for quaint old towns, pine forests and the Big Thicket. In Central Texas, where I live, you can experience gently rolling farmland and the remnants of the blackland prairie, as well as a more rugged countryside of live oak, prickly pear cactus and rock.

Favorite Art Town

It's a toss-up between Austin and Fredericksburg. Austin offers a great variety of art in its galleries and museums, and it has several supportive organizations for artists—Plein Air Austin, Central Texas Pastel Society and the Austin Pastel Society among them. Fredericksburg is home to a number of phenomenal artists and hosts First Friday Art Walks. Plus, it offers beautiful countryside with peach orchards and wineries.

Must-See Museums

You can travel the state to every compass point and find an outstanding museum. Fort Worth has the Kimbell Art Museum and the Amon Carter Museum. The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston has an impressive collection of American and European art, and the Beck Collection of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism. San Antonio's McNay Art Museum, a Spanish Colonial Revival-style home, is a treat not only for its art, but for its architecture and grounds as well.

Texas Art Heroes

Two of my favorite "local" artists are early Texas painters Julian Onderdonk (1882–1922) and Frank Reaugh (1860–1945). Onderdonk, often called "the father of Texas painting," was an impressionist painter best known for his bluebonnet paintings. Reaugh—also an inventor, naturalist and educator—is considered one of the Southwest's earliest and most distinguished artists. The museums in San Antonio, Canyon and at the University of Texas, in Austin, offer wonderful collections of their work. 

If you have a suggestion for an artist to feature in "State of the Art," send an e-mail to pjedit@fwmedia.com.