

Fine Art of Today's West Southwest Art

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Artists to Watch

Bonnie Gangelhoff

Our picks for today's rising stars

D. LaRue Mahlke

D. LaRue Mahlke lives in Georgetown, TX, a picturesque small town about 20 miles north of Austin. Her favorite subject matter isn't far from her front door. "I love my area of Texas with the surrounding farmland and the Hill Country—these landscapes and the skies are where my heart is," Mahlke explains. Hence, on any given day the artist can be found along the state's back roads and byways exploring new terrain. Closely observing nuances of light, color, value, and texture have had the most impact on her work over the years, she says.

Like many artists, the Lone Star State painter experiences a spiritual connection to the land she portrays. "I am always trying to capture the feeling of a place and the mood. I try to get across the emotion of what I was experiencing at the time," she says.



COUNTRY PEACE BY D. LARUE MAHLKE

Mahlke won first place for a small pastel at the Scottsdale Artists' School's Best and Brightest show. Her works are on view in August at the Maynard Dixon Country Invitational in Mt. Carmel, UT. Mahlke is represented by Whistle Pik Galleries, Fredericksburg, TX, and <http://www.dlaruemahlke.com/>.