**John Moyers**

John Moyers grew up in an artistic environment in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His father, sculptor and painter William Moyers, was his first role model. As a child, Moyers displayed a natural affinity for art, and during his early years—surrounded by paintings and sculptures—he was able to experiment with charcoal, India ink, and watercolors. Eventually he moved on to acrylic and oils.

After graduating from high school in New Mexico, Moyers was invited to live in the Laguna Beach area with one of his father’s former art teachers, John Noel Tucker. Tucker was a talented teacher and painter, and he really opened Moyers’s eyes to the world of art. Moyers was able to study from Tucker’s extended collection of 19th- and 20th-century European and American art books. These included artists that Moyers had never heard of but whose work captivated him. During that same period, he attended classes at Laguna Beach School of Art and Saddleback Junior College, wherever he could find life drawing and figure painting classes. He also took advantage of daily critiques from Tucker. In 1976, Moyers started taking his plein air work to Robert Lougheed for critique but was only able to do so when he returned home to New Mexico from art school during breaks. In 1979, Lougheed invited him to paint along with several other artists at the Okanagan Game Farm in British Columbia, Canada. Moyers then decided to leave art school and return to New Mexico, where he could spend a dedicated amount of time studying and painting alongside Lougheed year-round. His father, Tucker, and Lougheed always stressed the importance of good draftsmanship. Moyers regards this as the real foundation for the type of art he wanted to pursue, and he considers this period of his life the real turning point in his approach to art.

He has always tried to stretch the boundaries of Western art, much of the time doing so with a contemporary twist. Moyers paints Native Americans, cowboys, themes from Old Mexico and New Mexico, and landscapes. “I paint what excites me. . . . The more you paint, the more comfortable you get with process. Hopefully, I’m improving all the time.”

In 1982, Moyers married fellow artist Terri Kelly Moyers, whom he originally met at the artist gathering at the Okanagan Game Farm. They live in California and make annual pilgrimages to Canada, where they never fail to be inspired by the rugged beauty of the northern landscapes of the American continent. Moyers also paints en plein air in Hawaii, a place that has captivated his interest since his youth. Together the couple has traveled and painted all over the world. Around 2012, the Moyerses decided to do much of their plein air work in the medium of watercolor. Not only were watercolors easier to travel the world with but they turned out to really sharpen his drawing skills and complement his work in the studio. Both artists consider their outdoor work critical to their studio work.

Moyers feels that during the past 20 years there has been an explosion of new and quality art materials available to artists, and he always studies the different supplies coming onto the market. He has experimented with them extensively, which has allowed him to achieve different looks and techniques. Moyers always wants to keep expanding his horizons and does not want to be caught in a comfortable rut.

During Moyers’s 40-year career he has won numerous awards, some of them considered the most prestigious in the Western art world. In 2003 he received the Robert Lougheed Memorial Award at the *Prix de West*. A seven-time winner of the Cowboy Artists of America’s (CAA) Kieckhefer Award (Best of Show), he also received numerous Gold and Silver Awards in oil and water-soluble media at their annual exhibition and sale.After a 16-year membership in CAA, Moyers decided to resign to pursue other goals and other avenues in the art world. Although this was a very difficult decision for Moyers, and one that did not come lightly, it turned out to be a good choice for both his career and his family. Moyers has always used his instincts to move his art forward and feels it can be harmful to not keep pushing yourself and exploring new approaches.

In 2017 he won the James R. Parks Trustees' Purchase Award for *The Elders' Walk* at the *Masters of the American West,* and the Harrison Eiteljorg Purchase Award for *The Way to Sacred Water* at the *Quest for the West.* His work is in many other museum and private collections throughout the world, and has been featured in such publications as *Art of the West*, *Southwest Art*, *Western Art & Architecture*, and *Western Art Collector*.

John Moyers is represented by Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona; Mark Sublette Medicine Man Gallery, Tucson, Arizona; Maxwell Alexander Gallery, Los Angeles, California; Nedra Matteucci Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Wood River Fine Arts, Ketchum, Idaho.