**Matt Smith**

Matt Smith was born in Kansas City, Missouri. When he was very young he moved with his family to Scottsdale, Arizona, where he developed a lifelong connection to the Sonoran Desert and the great outdoors. This connection would eventually influence his decision to paint the landscape. During his teens, the family lived for two years in Toulouse, France, and for a year in Geneva, Switzerland. His travels in these and various other countries, including Italy, Germany, Austria, and Spain, exposed him to the work of many of the great masters. This exposure stimulated his interest in art and was a contributing factor in what was to become his lifelong commitment to painting.

In 1985, Smith earned a BFA degree in painting from Arizona State University. Somewhat frustrated with the abstract focus of the program at ASU, he began looking to outside sources for inspiration and guidance. These sources included fellow artists, fine galleries, and museums. This is when his “real” education began.

Smith has received prestigious recognition for his work, including the Robert M. Lougheed Memorial Award at the 2020 and 2000 *Prix de West* *Invitational Art Exhibition & Sale*, and the Colonel Richard H. “Red” Smith Artists’ Choice Award from the National Museum of Wildlife Art. In 2018, 2009, and 2000 he received the Ben Stahl Artists’ Choice Award and Merit Awards at the *Western Rendezvous of Art* in Helena, Montana, from which he has also received seven other Merit Awards. He has had one-man shows in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Wyoming, and has participated in numerous major group shows.

Smith’s work has been featured in *American Artist, Arizona Corridors*, *Art of the West, Art-Talk, International Artist, PleinAir*, *Southwest Art*, and *Western Art Collector*.

These days, Smith can often be found painting en plein air from Southern Arizona to the Canadian Rockies, and from the California coast to the Rocky Mountains. “I appreciate traditional landscape painting, and I am inspired by the pristine landscapes of the American West. I enjoy working in areas where one can travel for miles without seeing the influence of humans. When I paint, I feel I’ve hit the mark when I’ve captured a balance between mood, look, and feel.”

Smith lives in and maintains his studio in Scottsdale, Arizona. He teaches several workshops every year.

Matt Smith is represented by Claggett/Rey Gallery, Vail, Colorado; Del Monte Fine Art, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California; Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona; Mark Sublette Medicine Man Gallery, Tucson, Arizona; Simpson Gallagher Gallery, Cody, Wyoming; and Waterhouse Gallery, Santa Barbara, California.

 **420 words**