



Christoval painting, "South Concho Sparkle" by Christine Lashley.

Below, Debbie Carroll of Christoval, Texas, records on canvas scenes from the Junior Livestock Show at the Roping Paint-out.

# EnPleinAir Texas Attracts Best of American Artists

By Dee Lackey

**S**an Angelo will roll out its welcome mat October 23-30 when three dozen prominent U.S. artists arrive for the eighth annual EnPleinAir TEXAS competition.

This week-long extravaganza will include awards, sales and opportunities for observation – and best of all – funding for the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts' youth education program.

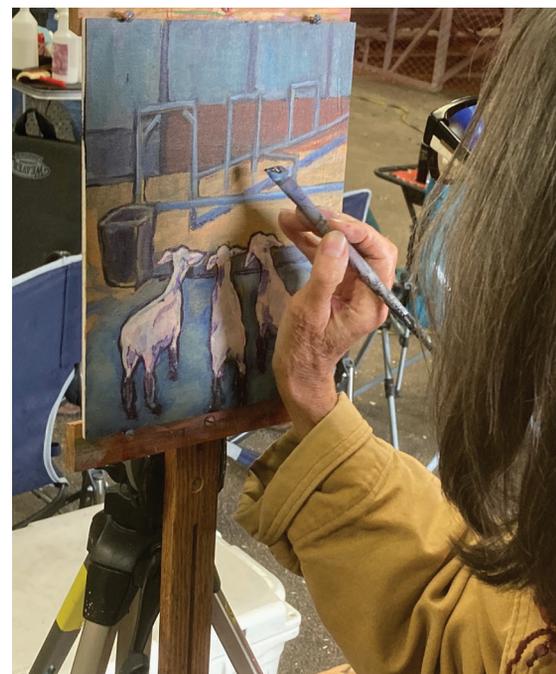
Hosted by SAMFA, this prestigious event is coordinated by local artist Barbara Rallo and co-chaired by Treva Boyd, Christoval artist. Sharon Alexander and Ellen

Lasseter also are part of the EPAT leadership team.

A majority of activities during the week will be conducted outdoors as well as at the Fort Concho Stables and Gallery Verde (both off South Oakes St.) to allow for maximum health and safety precautions. Facebook posts, videos and on-line sales will allow participation for those who prefer to remain home or those in other cities and states.

For an up-to-date agenda, event information or ticket availability, check out the group's website at [www.enpleinairtexas.com](http://www.enpleinairtexas.com).

Among the key stops on this year's





At Field Ranch, the view from the top of the hill offers a spectacular vista.



Spencer Meagher of Mount Vernon, Illinois and Thomas Kitts of Portland, Oregon paint a dry creekbed at the Field Ranch (Jennifer & Tim Crutchfield).

## Field Ranch's Vistas Appeal to **EnPleinAir** Painters

By Dee Lackey

CATTLE, BARNs, red prickly pear apples and hilltop views await Plein Air artists who will travel Thursday, Oct. 28th, the short distance to the Field Ranch located 25 minutes west of San Angelo.

With easels, paints and palettes, these adventuresome painters will be welcomed by ranch owners Jennifer and Tim Crutchfield. For most, it will be the artists' first true experience with West Texas ranching culture and a country setting.

Ticketed observers will be taken in ranch vehicles to sites where artists will be sketching and painting. Visit [www.enpleinairtexas.com](http://www.enpleinairtexas.com) for information.

Event coordinator Barbara Rallo says visitors may watch the painters, then move on to see another artist capture an entirely different scene.

A Tex-Mex fajita lunch with dessert will be served at noon. By mid-afternoon, artists and judge Tim Newton will gather at the large ranch barn for a special exhibit, reception and sale with wine, beer and light snacks.

Encompassing 6,000 acres, this Tom Green-iron County ranch was purchased by J.W. and Dorothy Fields in the 1930s. Both

Jennifer and Tim spent their adulthood in education and the chemical fields, yet with Jennifer spending summers and holidays here, it was natural she brought Tim to "God's country." After their marriage in 1993, this portion of Texas became their heart and soul. Their grown son, Cole, is currently away attending college.

Following Mrs. Fields' death in 2010, the couple continued as caretakers and became owners. They still stock Santa Gertrudis and commercial cattle and Dorper sheep have replaced the Rambouillet-DeBouillet crosses as well as leasing to hunters and a farming family.

Little Rocky creek's various branches provide rain water runoff while windmills across the property also help keep stock tanks full for livestock and wildlife. Energy production assists Tim financially with conservation measures. He points proudly to cleared roads and fence lines as we drive across verdant pastures on a warm August day.

After living in their barndominium for several years, the couple is awaiting completion of their new rock home which is located at the old headquarters site – and is just a stone's throw from the barn, pens, pumping windmill and water tank.

schedule are Concho Valley and San Angelo ranches, farms and the Cinch Roping Fiesta plus the city's historic Downtown sights, Water Lily Gardens and beautiful, meandering Concho River.

Returning as awards judge is Tim Newton, renown U.S. art collector and past chairman of the Salmagundi Club of New York City. Dividing his time between New York and Santa Fe, N.M., he's also publisher of the highly respected "Western Art & Architecture" magazine. (Newton graciously stepped in for Sara Linda Poly whose health issues prevented her from traveling.)

Another dignitary attending and speaking this year is Michael Grauer, a leading art historian from the National Cowboy & Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, OK., and formerly with the Panhandle-Plains Museum in Canyon.

Grauer will speak Thursday evening, Oct. 28 on "100 Years of Plein Air Painting in Texas," and Christoval has a spot in that interesting history dating back to the 1920's.

After arriving October 23 and 24, the artists will be out in cotton fields and pastures for four days of plein air painting. The ranches visited will be located in all directions across the Concho Valley. Then on Oct 27, artists will be painting throughout San Angelo and may be observed by interested onlookers.

The following day on Oct. 28, a new



Antwan Ramar of Orlando, Florida paints at the International Water Lily Gardens.



Neal Hughes of Medford, New Jersey, wins the 2021 Texas Artist Camp Award at the Quillen Ranch.



Olena Babak of Heartland, Maine, gets a little attention from the cows on the Quillen Ranch (Carolyn & Bill Quillen).



San Angelo children at the Museum of Fine Arts benefit from the artists willingness to share their time.

ticketed event is planned at the Field Ranch near Arden and hosted by Jennifer and Tim Crutchfield (see sidebar story).

On the 29th, artists will be painting at the Water Lily Gardens followed by the popular Stampede viewing and sale at the Stables Bldg. at intriguing Ft. Concho.

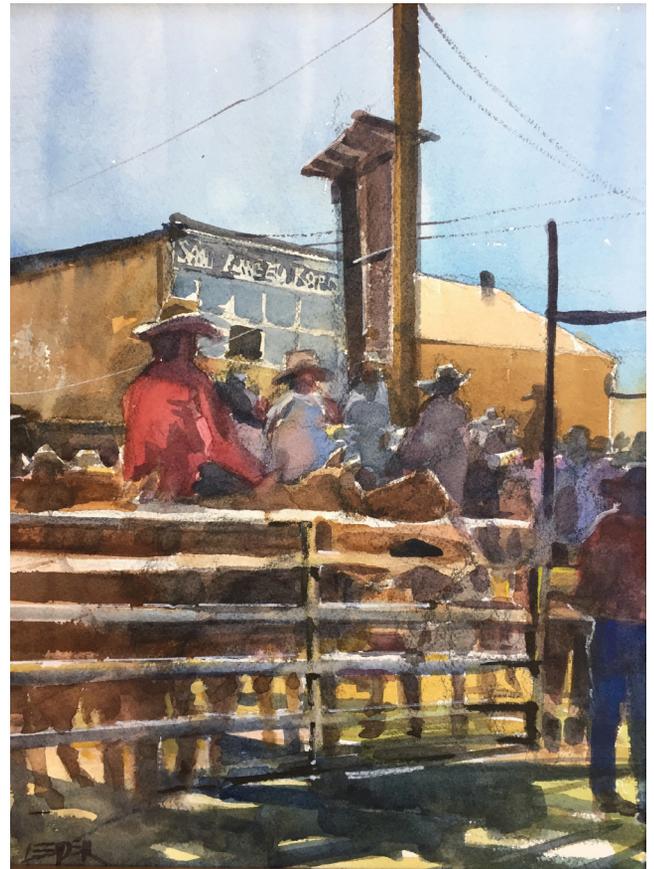
Saturday, Oct. 30 will be jam-packed with the Roping Fiesta Paint-Out, Mini Pearls unveiling and judge's talk by Newton followed by art sales and demos.

There is free entry at the Fairgrounds where artists will be painting all morning.

This year's 35 participating artists are coming to San Angelo from as far away



Some happy volunteers pose for a photo during a past EnPleinAir TEXAS event.



Christopher Leeper of Canfield, Ohio, captured this moment during the 2018 Roping Fiesta.



Watercolor by Richard Sneary of Kansas City, Missouri, done at a past Roping Fiesta Paint-out.

as Maine and Maryland as well as Oregon, California and Florida. They represent the best in their fields of artistic endeavor, and three are award winners from last year.

Grand patron for the event continues to be Elta Joyce McAfee and her Elta Joyce Murphey EnPleinAir Texas endow-



Yong Hong Zhong, right, of Lake Oswega, Oregon, visits with Ken Landon at the Water Lily Gardens in 2019.

ment. Ms. McAfee is the daughter of Irion Co. pioneers Elta and Thomas Murphey.

Ranch Plein Air partners include Jennifer and Tim Crutchfield, Bitsy and Che Stone, Eva and Guy Choate, Bryce and Mark Thieman, Chris Brininstool, Patsy and Kirk Cleere and Leah Brosig-Moore.

Additional event partners are Linda Gober, Randi and William Buche, Ellen Lasseter and George Shankle, Mary James, Barbara and Joe Rallo, Treva and Mike Boyd and Elizabeth and Randy Upham.

National partners are "PleinAir" magazine, "Western Art and Architecture" and "Western Art Collector."

The San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, under the astute leadership of Howard Taylor since its founding in 1985, is the event host and utilizes monies raised by the Plein Air event to foster youth art education throughout the Concho Valley.

Approximately 33,000 young people have been served yearly thanks to this unique fall event. SAMFA has been nationally recognized for its dedication to the community and surrounding area with the National Museum Service award as well as being honored twice by the city as its Citizen of the Year award winner.

Touted for its agriculture, manufacturing and tour-



Suzie Baker of Shenandoah, Texas, paints J.Wilde's on historic Concho Street in downtown San Angelo.

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Stables Exhibit of art works at Fort Concho.

ism, San Angelo also boasts a thriving art and music culture. Often named a Top Ten City, San Angelo is proud of its western and military influences, educational facilities plus recognized health care and retirement amenities.

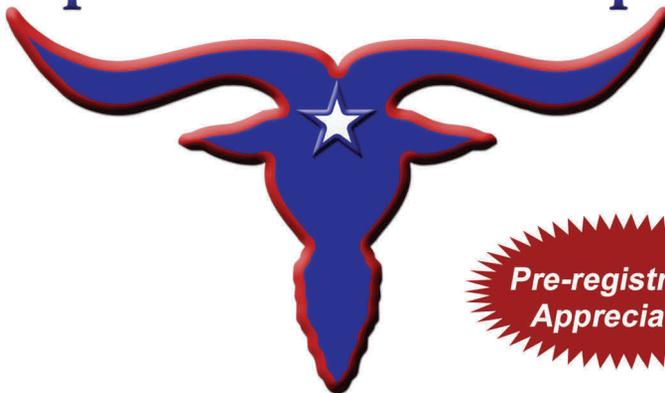
Ms. Rallo is always gracious to acknowledge supporters, host families,

volunteers and the entire community for embracing this increasingly popular event.

Hopefully, the artists will return home with memories of swell San Angelo, and numerous pieces of art will find new walls to adorn in homes and businesses here and beyond.

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