

William Acheff

A 1981 *Southwest Art* article describes the scene at William Acheff's first one-man show, held at Shriver Gallery in Taos in 1978. People were lining up at the door an hour in advance, and once they got inside they learned that purchasers would be decided by a drawing. "Two and a half years later," the article continues, "galleries are still telling their clients that if they want an Acheff, they'll have to resign themselves to waiting." In the 20 years since that article, the popularity of Acheff's highly realistic still lifes has remained steady. "I paint Indian objects because I relate to them," Acheff said in 1981. "There's a purity in them. I like earthy things, textures from nature."



Born: Anchorage, AK, 1947.

Resides: Taos, NM.

Art education: I had great high school art classes - I took so many that I virtually "majored" in art in high school. Later I studied privately with Roberto Lupetti.

Favorite piece: I don't know if I have a favorite, but the most significant piece I've ever done is probably *YELLOW ROSE OF TEXAS*. It sold for \$45,000 at the *Western Heritage Sale* in Houston, TX, one year, and that gave me a lot of attention.

Major turning points: Moving to Taos was one - being in a small town with a strong art environment allowed me to develop my own style early on. Getting into the *Western Heritage Sale* was another, because of the great exposure I got there. And showing my work at Shriver Gallery here in Taos —it was a good gallery to be in because I got to meet some of the big "gurus," people like Gordon Snidow and others.

How the art market has changed: There's just more art - everyone and their brother paints these days, there are a ton of galleries, and there are more people interested in buying art. It's a saturated market.

Other interests: Well, I paint a lot. I'm building a new garage for my house. And I fly airplanes.



Galleries: J.N. Bartfield Galleries, New York, NY; Nedra Matteucci Galleries, Santa Fe, NM; Settlers West Galleries, Tucson, AZ; and Texas Art Gallery, Dallas, TX.