

PAINTING LANDSCAPES

Diane Edwards showcases Colorado and the West

By Linda Sailer
The Dickinson Press

Artist and painting instructor Diane Edwards has published her newest book of art titled "Painting Landscapes of Colorado and The West."

The book is filled with ideas and lessons for painting landscapes with oils and pastels — intended as a tool for beginners or advanced painters. It could also be helpful for artists in any medium.

"Painting Landscapes" is filled with examples of her paintings of the Colorado mountain landscapes, North Dakota prairies and the West.

Her love of painting was nurtured while growing up in Daglum, located 17 miles south of South Heart. She's the daughter of Gilman and Bea Peterson — descendants of Norwegian immigrants.

"Both my parents were very creative — my dad was kind of a machinist who invented lot of things for farming, and mom was always doing something creative," she said from her home in Colorado.

Living on the prairies, she ran around the farm playing with her dog and riding bike.

She writes, "I have spent so many hours traversing areas around our farm in North Dakota, the colorful badlands just a few miles west of our farm and the

beautiful Rainy Buttes that are visible through the kitchen window."

Those experiences taught her to look for the small details — the differences in western landscapes that make them unique.

"I identify the colorful shapes, lines, edges and form and transform them from the ordinary into a satisfying scene," she said. "My love of the landscape is hopefully evident in every painting I do."

Her nostalgia for bygone days is depicted in paintings of her dad rolling up barbed wire, Herefords grazing in the pasture or Grandpa Halvor haying with a team of horses.

She loves the winter and instills the theme into many of her paintings, be it "Cattle in the Snow," "Snow before Sunset" or "Winter on the Big Thompson."

The chapter topics within "Painting Landscapes" include painting basics, shapes and composition, painting in a series, how to focus on a small vista and what to include/or leave out of a large vista. There's an entire chapter on North Dakota, another on evaluation and critiquing, and finally, how to plan your time.

Sometimes, Edwards likes to paint "en plein air" (painting outside), inspired by the terrain surrounding her home at



Diane Edwards is shown with her granddaughters, Lilian and Eleanor in their Norwegian bunads.

Submitted Photo

Fort Collins, Colo.,

"I always start with an idea, and will look at all my photos until one appeals to me. I figure out in my head what I want to do and fairly quickly," she said. "I've always done oil painting and watercolor, but a few years ago I got interested in pastels — those brilliant sticks are just gorgeous and so much fun to work with."

She summarizes her advice with nuggets of knowledge, such as "Painting landscapes are ALL about the light." "Wonderful paintings can

be done with just a few colors." And finally, "No matter what level you are at as an artist, be sure to use the best materials you can afford."

Edwards has a master's degree in art and uses her education to teach landscape painting. She wrote, "I've been teaching all my life in public schools and the college level. Now I teach workshops and classes in my home studio.

Edwards graduated from Dickinson State University and married Dale Edwards in 1972.



"Morning Feed -- the Steers, Flagstaff Farms"



Rocky Mountain National Park

PAINTING LANDSCAPES of COLORADO and the WEST



Poppies on the Front Range, Pastel, 11" x 17". From a photo study on Flickr Mark, 3/20/08.

DIANE EDWARDS

Their family includes two children, Liesl, married to Todd Hargrave and Brion, married to Mihoko. They have four grandchildren.

Other published books by Edwards include rose-maling design, basics of Swedish folk art, cooking Colorado-style, rose-maling boxes and rose-maling for young people.

For information about her books, workshops or paintings, visit www.DianeEdwardsArt.com or www.Nordic-Arts.com.

To order copies of "Painting Landscapes,"

contact: Penfield Books, 215 Brown Street, Iowa City, IA 52245. Also www.penfieldbooks.com or by phone at 1-319-337-9998.

Sailer is lifestyles editor at The Press; call her at 701-456-1209.

This week at the Dickinson Area Public Library

Mon. Dec. 17th thru Fri. Dec. 21st

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- No Story Time
- 3:30pm to 5:00pm Kids' Board Games available

Tuesday, Dec. 18th:
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Wednesday, Dec. 19th:
- No Story Time
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Thursday, Dec. 20th:
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