**Grant Redden**

Grant Redden lives and paints in southwestern Wyoming with his wife and family. His primary focus is on the landscape, animals, and people that make up the fabric of the Western lifestyle. Raised in a ranching family with pioneer roots, his experiences with working livestock, living the in the West, and studying history inform his choices and inspire his creativity.

“I always had a drive to draw and make pictures. When I was a boy, my mother would get me the largest box of crayons she could find and a big tablet of paper that would keep me out of trouble—most of the time. I took all the art classes available in school and even sold some paintings while in high school.”

After graduating from high school and serving a two-year mission in Argentina for the LDS Church, Redden listened to those who claimed he could not make a living as an artist and enrolled in college, studying economics. He graduated from Utah State University in 1986 with a BS in agricultural economics and took a job as a real estate appraiser doing residential, commercial, and farm and ranch appraisals. After working at this job and squeezing in painting binges—mostly in watercolor—for a few years, Redden made a call to a friend, Jim Norton, a successful Western artist who was willing to look at his work and give him some advice. Norton became a mentor and coached Redden on what he must do to improve his work. Redden worked hard, taking workshops, studying deceased and living Masters, and painting outside to improve his knowledge of color and values, and eventually got his artwork into a few galleries. In 1997 he took the leap into full-time work as an artist.

Since then, Redden has participated in various shows, including the *Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale*; the Northwest Rendezvous Group of Artists’ *Rendezvous of Western Art*; the *American Masters* at the Salmagundi Club; *Masters of the American West* at the Autry Museum; and *Night of Artists* at the Briscoe Museum. Inducted into Cowboy Artists of America (CAA) in 2012, Redden’s work has been awarded six Gold Medals for Oil Painting; two Stetson Awards, voted on by active members of CAA for the best group of work; and the Anne Marion Best of Show at the 2017 CAA show. He joined the Northwest Rendezvous Group of Artists as a member in 2010. Redden and his work have been featured in *Art of the West*, *Cowboys and Indians*, *Southwest Art*, *Western Art & Architecture*, and *Western Art Collector*.

“Someone once asked me what my hobbies were. Upon reflection I realized that given freedom to choose time and spend money, aside from my family, my hobby is the study of great art—attending museums, poring through art books and biographies. Studying the ‘what’ and the ‘how’ of the Masters and trying to incorporate their craftsmanship into my own work is a constant pursuit.

“I hope my paintings create an appreciation for the craft of laying down pigment. Developing a compelling design, and using beautiful color and texture, an exciting surface, are predominant objectives to me. In my portrayal of the Western life and lifestyle, it is important to give respect to the resiliency and determination of those who established the Western way of life, and those who continue to live it: men, women, and families. I hope that the viewer of my work can feel the heat of the sun and the bitter wind; smell the sage and the mown hay in the windrow; and hear the click of shod hooves on stone, the squeak of saddle leather, the jingle of harness, and the crunch of snow. I aspire to express the sense of exhilaration and fatigue, the joys and struggles of humans and beasts. Over the years I have been the lucky recipient of selfless mentors, an encouraging and supportive family, and willing and generous collectors. All of these are the sine qua non of the artist’s career. It is a partnership, especially, between the creator/producer and the viewer/collector.”

**679 words**