

| STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO



Phil Wright Paints an Inspiring Landscape

Phil Wright, the artist responsible for this issue's cover, moved to Steamboat Springs eight years ago, last September. "It was the first time I'd been here in the fall. The whole valley was lit up golden with all the Aspen," he said. The shimmering trees continue to fascinate the native Midwesterner.

The painting gracing this magazine's cover, *Aspen Shadows*, was created from a field study of one of Wright's favorite groves. Plein-air opportunities are among Wright's favorite things about his adopted hometown. "There's a saying that you come for the skiing and stay for the summers. That's a truism. I love the summers even more than the winters, now," he said. Like many Steamboat Springs residents, Wright first came to town to ski. At the time, he was living in Japan, working for Ford Motor Company and immersed in the corporate life. When it came time to retire, Steamboat made his short list.

"We looked at other ski areas—Aspen, Vail, Snowmass, but the thing about Steamboat is that it's a real town. You have miners and cowboys and a sense of community. When we asked people why they live here we always got the same answer. 'It's the people. The friendly people.' You also have a resort and all those qualities that make it more desirable than other small towns."

Steamboat's scenic beauty provides the artist with ample subject matter. He typically does field studies and either completes the work in his studio or uses it as the basis for a larger piece. He is the featured artist at The Artist Gallery of Steamboat this July. For more information, visit www.philwrightstudio.com. ■



Aspen Glitter, 16" X 20", oil on linen



Ouray Ranch, 11" X 14", oil on linen