

## Sharon Abshagen

### Capturing a World of Inspiration



Sharon Abshagen, the artist responsible for this edition's cover, possesses an affinity for plein aire painting that occurred naturally. The lifelong Coloradoan has always enjoyed her state's outdoor opportunities *and* art. "I love being outside so plein aire really suits me well. When I go camping, rafting, fly-fishing, I also paint. I've always painted in the studio, too. Those are typically larger works from field sketches."

*Spud Mountain*, shown in its entirety here, was created during an outing with the Four Corners Plein Aire Society. "We were up at the Durango Mountain Resort on a gorgeous July morning," she said. "The light was just amazing. I painted it mostly in one morning. I may have worked on it a bit at home. But I work very hard to complete a painting quickly when I work plein aire. You can see that in the loose, fast, brush strokes. The spontaneity brings excitement to the piece."

Abshagen's enthusiasm for her work is rivaled only by her passion for Durango, a place she's called home since 1973. "I work in a home



*Spud Mountain*, an 11" x 14" plein aire oil

studio with a spectacular view overlooking Silver Mountain and a wildlife refuge. There's this great northern light coming in the window. And the nice thing about Durango is its variety. We're in the mountains but so close to the desert. So I am able to draw great inspiration from our surroundings here." To view more of her work, visit her website, [www.sharonabshagen.com](http://www.sharonabshagen.com). ■