

# For the Love of Oils

By Vicki Stavig

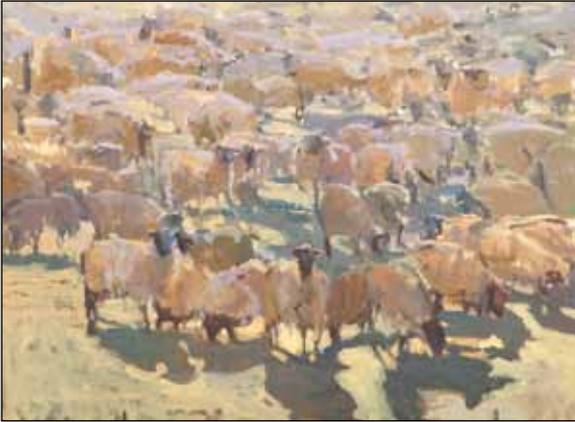
*"It's so fine and yet so terrible to stand in front of a blank canvas."*

Paul Cezanne (1839-1906)

Thankfully, there are men and women who eagerly, although admittedly somewhat fearfully, stand in front of blank canvases and gather their courage—and summon all of their skills—to transform them into wondrous works of art. Before they reach that point, however, they have settled on a medium that they feel is best suited to them and their subjects.

The artists we feature here have found, for the most part, what they need in oil paints. Although they might, on occasion, use other mediums, they admit to what, essentially, has become a love affair with oils. They describe oil paints as sensual and versatile. They love the ability it affords them to create vibrant colors. And, of course, the textures they can achieve with oil paints lend their work an almost three-dimensional quality.

We are excited to share with you some stunning oil paintings created by six incredibly talented artists.



Lori Putnam - *Bunch of Softies*, oil, 18" by 24"



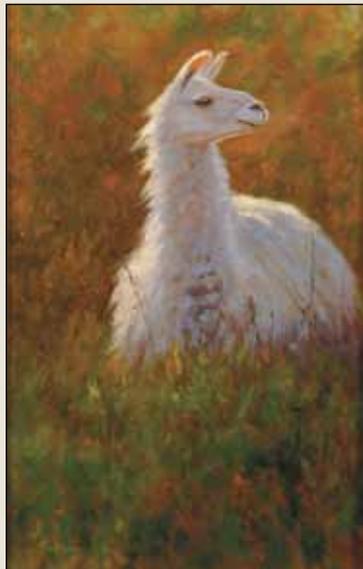
Nancy Howe - *Returning Home*, oil, 25" by 38"



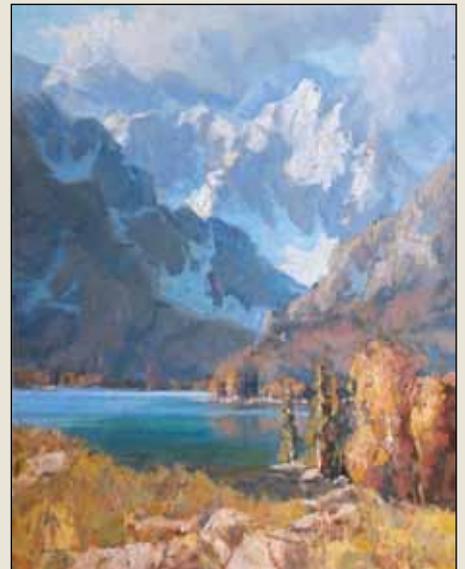
Jean Chambers - *Tea Flavors*, oil, 7" by 13"



Albin Veselka - *Grandpa's Workshop*, oil, 30" by 24"



Craig Zuger - *Bathing in Winter Light*, oil, 20" by 12"



Bill Davidson - *Abundance*, oil, 40" by 30"



*Snow Shadows, oil, 14" by 22"*

## LORI PUTNAM

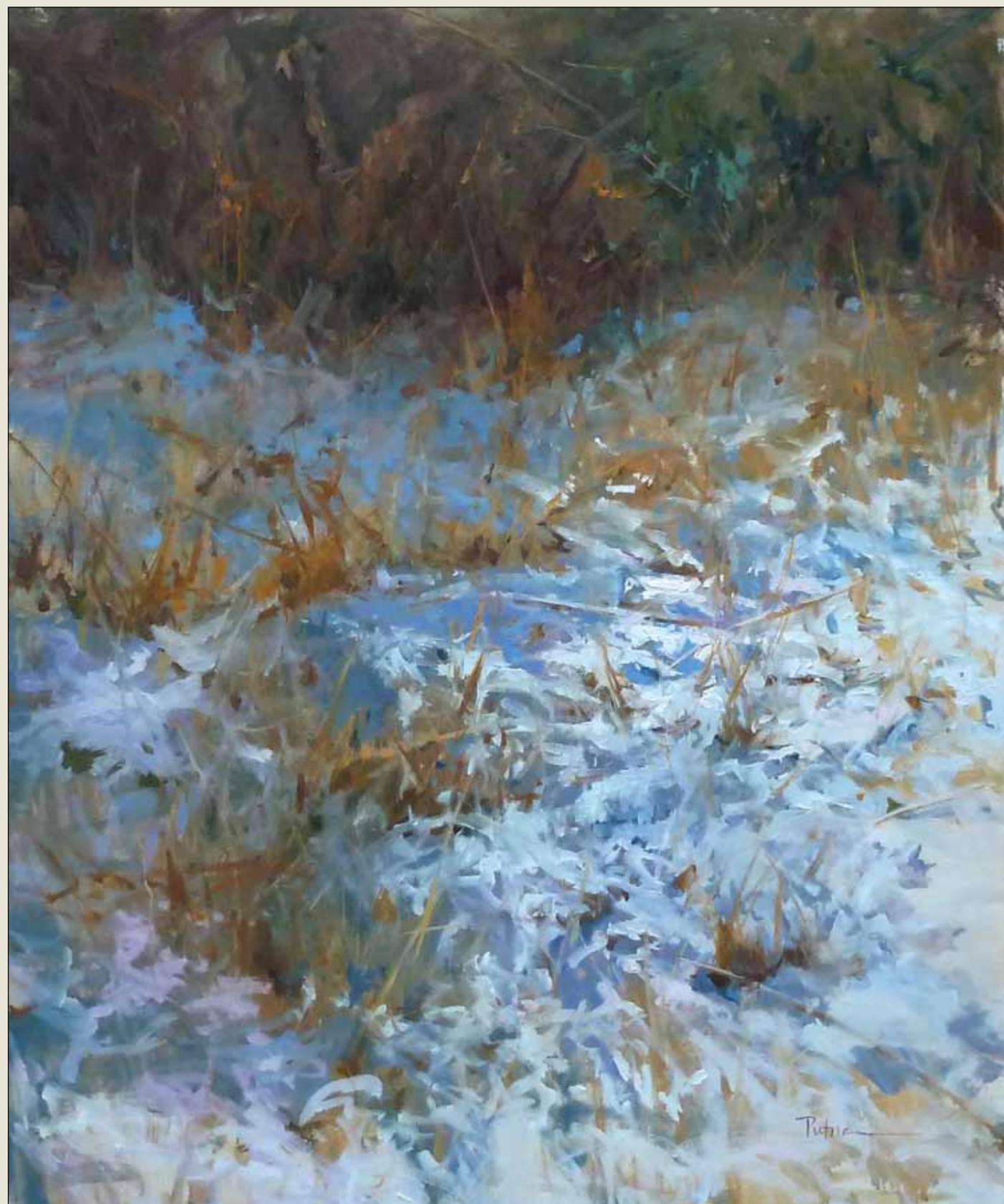


"I paint because it is such a challenge for the mind. Painting is stimulating, exhausting, and pure joy all at the same time. Painting is like working a difficult puzzle. I try to see it completed in my mind, then decide how best to deconstruct it—all the way down to the bare canvas. That's the only way I know for certain exactly how to begin. For me, painting is problem solving, expression, and paint.

"Rhythms and patterns [inspire me] more than any particular subject. I like to paint everything and often paint still lifes and portraits, or figures, as well as landscapes. Interesting shapes, color harmonies, and movement really excite me.

"My first painting class in oils was in 1997, and I fell in love with the feel of it. Oil is sensual, as it pulls off the brush. It is also an extremely versatile medium. There is no end to the way you can work in oil. Mastering different pressure between the brush and the surface and working with varying thickness in paint are all part of that problem solving I mentioned earlier.

"I want someone to look at my work and feel excited. The brushwork needs to be fresh and unlabored; it should be expressive yet simple. I want to involve viewers and leave some passages for them to complete on their own. It prompts them to ask questions about what I have intentionally left out in terms of detail. Every area is resolved in some way or other, but that doesn't mean detail. I am always looking for ways to say more with less, sometimes bordering on abstraction."



*Winter Blues, oil, 36" by 30"*