

## **SPIKE RESS**

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### **STATEMENT**

I knew I had to pursue fine art when I realized I couldn't stop painting. I don't know if I'm an artist, that's for others to say. I do know I am a painter and I strive to be a good one.

In recent years I have returned to painting in oil on location. However, I continue to work in both media. I've used watercolor most of my life because it's a friendly medium for the traveling artist. It's lightweight, fast drying, and lends itself to capturing a direct impression. I now find that working in watercolor and oil serves to heighten my skills in both media.

It is my desire as a painter to react to the scene before me with an immediate and honest approach. For me, this is the best way to convey a feeling of presence to the viewer. I want my paintings to *feel* the way a place felt, not just *look* the way a place looked. I can't say whether I achieve this elusive feeling with every painting, ultimately, that is for the viewer to decide.

### **BACKGROUND**

Born: Long Island, New York, February 1948

An early interest in drawing and painting led to an apprenticeship with a Roswell, New Mexico Sign Company. After ten years of working in the sign business, Ressa gained the position as Art Director with a national firm in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 1978 he became a free-lance illustrator, which enabled him to further his study of the fine arts. Since 1982 he has devoted full time to his own painting.

### **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS AND AWARDS**

- 2010 Western Federation of Watercolor Societies 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition
- 2009 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah - **First Place Watercolor**
- 2009 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah - **Honorable Mention**
- 2008 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah - **First Place Watercolor**
- 2008 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah - **Honorable Mention**
- 2007 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah - **First Place Watercolor**
- 2006 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah - **Honorable Mention**
- 2005 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah - **First Place Watercolor**
- 2003 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah
- 2002 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah
- 2001 Helper Utah Annual Plein Air Competition - **Honorable Mention**
- 2000 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah
- 1999 Watercolor West Annual Juried Exhibition - **Grumbacker Gold Medallion Award**
- 1998 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah
- 1997 Southern Utah Invitational, Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Cedar City, Utah
- 1997 The Regional, St. George Art Museum
- 1996 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah
- 1996 Utah Spring Salon, Springville Museum of Art, Springville, Utah
- 1995 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah
- 1995 Expo Arte, The Juarez Art Museum, Juarez, Mexico
- 1994 Expo Arte, The Juarez Art Museum, Juarez, Mexico
- 1994 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah
- 1993 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah
- 1992 Dixie College Invitational, St. George, Utah - **Purchase Award**
- 1989 American Watercolor Society 122nd International Exhibition

- 1988 San Diego Watercolor Society International Exhibit - **3rd and Purchase Award**
- 1988 Arts for the Parks - **top 100 for traveling exhibition**
- 1986 New Mexico Color and Light Annual Exhibit
- 1986 Watercolor West Annual Juried Exhibition
- 1985 The Utah Experience Exhibit, The Museum of Natural History, Taipei, Taiwan
- 1985 San Diego Watercolor Society International Exhibit
- 1985 Rocky Mountain National Water Media Exhibit - **Dick Blick Award**
- 1985 Cedar City National Juried Exhibition - **Purchase Award**
- 1985 Watercolor West Annual Juried Exhibition
- 1985 Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Exhibit
- 1984 Utah Watercolor Society Annual Exhibition
- 1984 Rocky Mountain National Water Media Exhibit
- 1984 Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Exhibit - **First Merit Award**
- 1983 Utah Watercolor Society Annual Exhibition - **First Merit Award**
- 1983 Cedar City National Juried Exhibition

### **GALLERY AFFILIATIONS**

Adobe Gallery, Ruidoso, New Mexico  
 Apple Frame Gallery, Bountiful, Utah  
 Bingham Gallery, Mt. Carmel, Utah  
 Crawley Wilkerson Fine Art, Ogden, Utah  
 Blue Sage Gallery, Cedar City, Utah  
 Total Arts Gallery, Taos, New Mexico  
 Wilkerson Fine Art, Eden Utah

### **MUSEUM AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

Charles M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, MT  
 Saint George City Art Museum, St. George, UT  
 Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery and Museums, Cedar City, UT  
 Dixie College, St. George, Utah

### **PUBLIC AND CORPORATE COLLECTIONS**

Cedar City Art Committee, Cedar City, Utah  
 Dean Witter, Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, Denver, Colorado  
 Fidelity Investments, Salt Lake City, Utah  
 First Interstate Bank, Las Vegas, Nevada  
 Flanigan's Inn, Zion National Park, Utah  
 Fox and Company, Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Iron County, State of Utah  
 Parowan, Utah, Main Street Visitors Center  
 Phillips Petroleum Company, Bartlesville, Oklahoma  
 Review Journal Newspaper, Las Vegas, Nevada  
 Silverlake Properties of Southern California  
 State Bank of Southern Utah, Cedar City, Utah  
 State Bank of Southern Utah, Parowan, Utah  
 The City of Boulder City, Nevada  
 The City of Salt Lake City, Utah  
 The Leavitt Insurance Group, Cedar City, Utah  
 United Bank of Brighton, Colorado  
 Valley View Hospital, Cedar City, Utah  
 Watkiss and Campbell, Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Winder and Haslam, Salt Lake City, Utah

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Southern Utah University - winter 1997, Special Instructor of Art  
Southern Utah University - 1994, guest artist  
Brigham Young University - winter 1992, guest artist  
Southern Utah University - winter 1984, Special Instructor of Art  
Southern Utah University - Continuing Education - summer 1984, 1989, 1990

Boulder City Art Institute Workshop, Boulder City, UT  
Cedar City Art Retreats, Cedar City, UT  
Duck Creek Village, Workshop, Duck Creek, UT  
Las Vegas Artist's Co-op Workshop, Las Vegas, NV  
Southern Utah Society of Artists Workshop, St. George, UT  
St. George Artist's Co-op Workshop, St. George, UT

Utah Watercolor Society Workshop, Cedar City, UT  
Willow Glen Art Retreats Workshop, Cedar City, UT