



# Women Artists of the West

Women's Fine Art in Numerous Subjects & Mediums . . . Across the United States

## Louisa McElwain



Louisa McElwain has become known for her big sky paintings and a technique that she developed, out of necessity, many years ago while on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay. She creates her inviting landscapes using a palette knife instead of a brush, which allows her to work quicker and with more precision. Even though she has developed this unusual technique she does still rely on things she learned while attending several prestigious art schools in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. In addition, she had the privilege to be under the tutelage of an 82-year-old Italian maestra in Florence, where she focused on classical figure drawing techniques. She is fully devoted to her craft and playfully reveals that “to perish while painting would be my preferred way to go...”



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## Louisa McElwain (Cont.)

Growing up on a New Hampshire farm, she developed a love for nature while taking long walks with her father through the deep, green woods that surrounded them. This love would continue when she moved to New Mexico and began to capture some of the boundless energy of the natural beauty that defines the southwest landscapes. It was here that she was able to define her style as “post-poetry, and untamed nature”. She does all her large canvas paintings outdoors, usually in the back of her pickup, which allows nature to be involved with the creative process to the fullest extent. Often dust, insects, or bits of plants will be blown into her paintings and she views this as a necessary ingredient in order to connect her piece with the natural world. According to her, “the act of painting is an expression of my connectedness with God and Nature. I am Nature.”

