

The image is a vertical painting of birch trees. The trunks are white with dark, irregular spots and are rendered with visible brushstrokes. The foliage is a dense, vibrant mix of red, orange, and yellow, suggesting autumn. The overall style is expressive and textured, with a focus on color and light. The text "James Pringle Cook" is centered over the middle of the painting in a white, serif font.

James Pringle Cook

INTRODUCTION

James Pringle Cook took his first art classes at the Mulvane Art Museum when he was about seven years old. That early exposure to art launched a lifelong exploration of urban settings, landscapes, and nature. Heinley Fine Arts is fortunate to have recently added Cook's work to our collection, and we are pleased to be able to present a new series of water works and landscapes in this exhibition.

Cook studied painting and printmaking in Emporia where he received B.A. and M.A. degrees, then went on to study in Wichita where he earned an M.F.A. degree. In 1971, he taught painting at the University of Arizona in Tucson, but resigned in 1978 in order to work full time in the studio. Since then, he has earned the distinction of being one of the country's most important landscape artists.

Cook continues to live in Tucson and devotes himself to painting and traveling. It is the diverse environments he finds along the way that inform his aesthetic views and inspire him, and the resulting works are such powerful evocations of nature's majesty that they are often described as monumental. However, the essence of Cook's paintings is contained in the singular brush stroke, line, and mark he orchestrates. It is the radiance of the paint on canvas that invites one to plunge into the depths. There is a lush quality to the surface of the canvas that is visceral, and even as you are engaged in the ripples of still pools and the patterns of fall foliage, it is the thick impastos and scraped textures that engage the senses in the expressive temperament of the medium.

It is obvious that Cook is in love with paint. To experience his paintings is to comprehend the spirit of color, depth, and movement. His love of beauty finds its way onto the canvas as he strives to create visual excitement. He sometimes compares himself to abstract expressionists in the way that he works, noting that there is a great deal of invention in the paint itself.

James Cook has been engaged in a lifelong dance with light, texture, shadow, and space. Through his paintings, he shares a vision of the world that hovers between the intimate and the heroic. Seeing nature and the land through his eyes expands our awareness and understanding of the world around us.

Connie Gibbons, Mulvane Art Museum (Cat. 2014)

Front Cover: "Maple and Aspen - Pinal #3" 40 x 70 inches, oil on linen



"Sawtooth 08 #6" 60 x 50 inches, oil on linen



"East Fork - Color Study #4" 60 x 40 inches, oil on linen



"Vermillion - Study #3" 24 x 34 inches, oil on linen



"Velarde - Cornfield" 60 x 70 inches, oil on linen



"Pine Top - Study #9" 24 x 34 inches, oil on linen



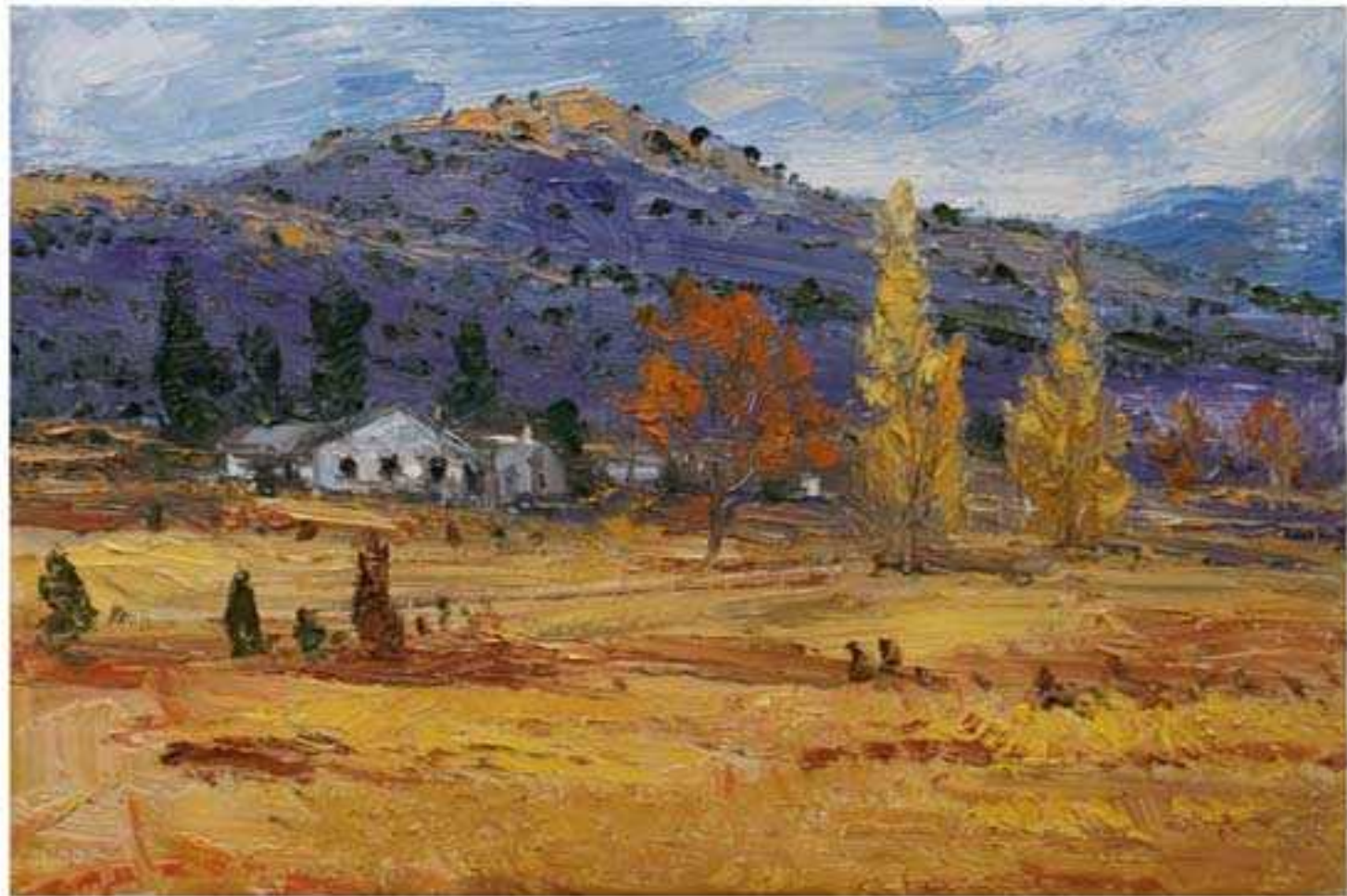
"Fox Aspen #1" 20 x 24 inches, oil on linen



"Vermillion - Study #1" 24 x 34 inches, oil on linen



"Pine Top - Study #10" 34 x 24 inches, oil on linen



"Rio Penasco - Study #1" 24 x 34 inches, oil on linen

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"Blue River - Study #3" 24 x 18 inches, oil on linen



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