



SUN VALLEY CATTLE • Oil., 24 x 36"

FEELINGS are great...

Knowing how to paint is BETTER!

Contemporary representational painter **JERRY MARKHAM** says he was discouraged from painting representational work in art school, in favor of painting his feelings.

Vernon, BC artist Jerry Markham does a lot of plein air paintings, most of them used as studies for larger paintings done in his studio. His works are mainly in oil, although he does enjoy watercolor as well.

Most of his field studies are 8 x 10" to 12 x 16" and his studio paintings are usually standard sizes somewhere between 20 x 24" and 48 x 60". Utrecht and Graham are his preferred paint brands and he uses Curry's flat brushes - mostly the 4s, 6s and 8s.



WINTER AT LAKE LOUISE • Oil, 40 x 60"

FEELINGS *are great...*

Markham went to art school right after high school. At the time, he says the teaching leaned towards modern art and painting through emotion. He was interested in representational painting. "I thought, if that's what art school was, it wasn't for me."

So he worked for a while before being laid off. He decided to take that winter and paint. He went to an art supply store - Swinton's Art Supply in Calgary, AB - where he asked the owner for a job and he worked part-time while pursuing his art career.

That was eight years ago. Now, at 29 years old, Markham has a successful art career.

He moved into a home previously owned by an artist who had built a studio behind the house.

"The studio has north-facing windows on one side where my easel is. It has 15' ceilings on one side and the other side has a 10' ceiling." He uses daylight-corrected lighting and says the high ceilings diffuse light really well.

His studio houses his large easel, a palette table, computer, drawing table, large mirror and lots of books.

He likes to have the mirror in the studio because it helps keep him from getting too tight. "From far away you want the painting to look like 'that thing,' but the closer you get, it's just a bunch of shapes and marks and things." The mirror, he adds, "Gives you what it's going to look like from 10' away."

His works are usually carefully planned, with at least three thumbnail sketches. "I do the sketches for the composition and value planes before I start."

His style has evolved over the years - something Markham says was not a conscious decision. "It's definitely changed, but not on purpose. If you look at something from a few years back it's definitely changed. I'm trying to paint warmer. Everything out here (in BC) is warmer (than in Alberta). I'm working on trying to paint what's here - the warmer light."



BOW LAKE • Oil, 36 x 48"

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Swinton's Art Supply owner/artist Doug Swinton and artist Jean Geddes have been a great help to the young painter, giving him advice and encouragement and friendship.

"Jean really helped me - she told me I couldn't be lazy - I had to treat it like a job and have self-discipline. If you want to be a good painter, that's what you have to do."

To assist young artists, Markham recently took a group of eight high school students to Fish Creek Park in Calgary for a day of outdoor painting. He says they produced amazing paintings, were receptive to instruction, and expressed interest in pursuing art as a career. Their paintings will be on display at the exhibition Nov. 1 - 22 at

Webster Galleries in Calgary, along with Markham's new indoor and outdoor works. Markham will be in attendance at the opening reception Nov. 1 from 1 - 5 p.m.

Due to his own negative experience as a post-secondary art student, he wanted to expose the students to representational painting from life. In art school, "They (instructors) always told me to paint with feeling. Well I had a lot of feelings, but I didn't know how to paint. I would like them (the students) to know that painting from life is a big deal and that painting what you see is okay - there's art in that." He loved the experience with the young artists and says he wants to repeat the experience every year. "Work hard and study good paintings," he advises them.



MILLARVILLE AUTUMN • Oil, 20 x 30"

FEELINGS *are great...*

Markham was disappointed when he found out that his hometown of Calgary (at the time) had the largest collection of Carl Rungius's works and yet none were on permanent display. The second largest collection of Rungius's works is in Jackson Hole, Wyoming where a whole wing is dedicated to the collection. The

collection was exceptional, he says.

Markham says he gets tired of hearing the term 'starving artist'. "It's hard to make a living - in everything. My stepdad told me, 'If you want to do something, work really hard and don't worry about how to make a living. It'll come.'" •



JERRY MARKHAM's paintings are collected worldwide. He is currently a member of the Oil Painters of America and Federation of Canadian Artists.

Particular awards of interest include being selected finalist in the Cover Competition for American Artist magazine in February 2006, receiving the Award of Excellence for "Back Your Beef" at the National Federation of Canadian Artists show in May 2005, and featured as one of 100 artists to author the book "How Did You Paint That? 100 Ways to Paint Landscapes" released by International Artist Magazine in 2003.

You can find out more about Jerry Markham and his artwork at www.jerrymarkham.com .