

INSIDE State of the Art: Montana • Charles M. Russell Watercolors • Glacier National Park

Previews of Works For Sale at Upcoming Shows

AUGUST 2016

108

WESTERN ART

C O L L E C T O R



UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 12 works

August 15-27, 2016

Altamira Fine Art
172 Center Street
Jackson, WY 83001
(307) 739-4700

SHOW LOCATION JACKSON, WY



DENNIS ZIEMIENSKI

National treasures

The national park paintings of Dennis Zieminski are filled with captivating scenes that pull the viewer to the places, animals and people of these preserved lands. Take for instance the artist's work *By a Waterfall, National Park Service, 1916*, which shows a visitor in their Model-T Ford truck being greeted by a park ranger. It is a scenario that could be reminiscent of a visit to any number

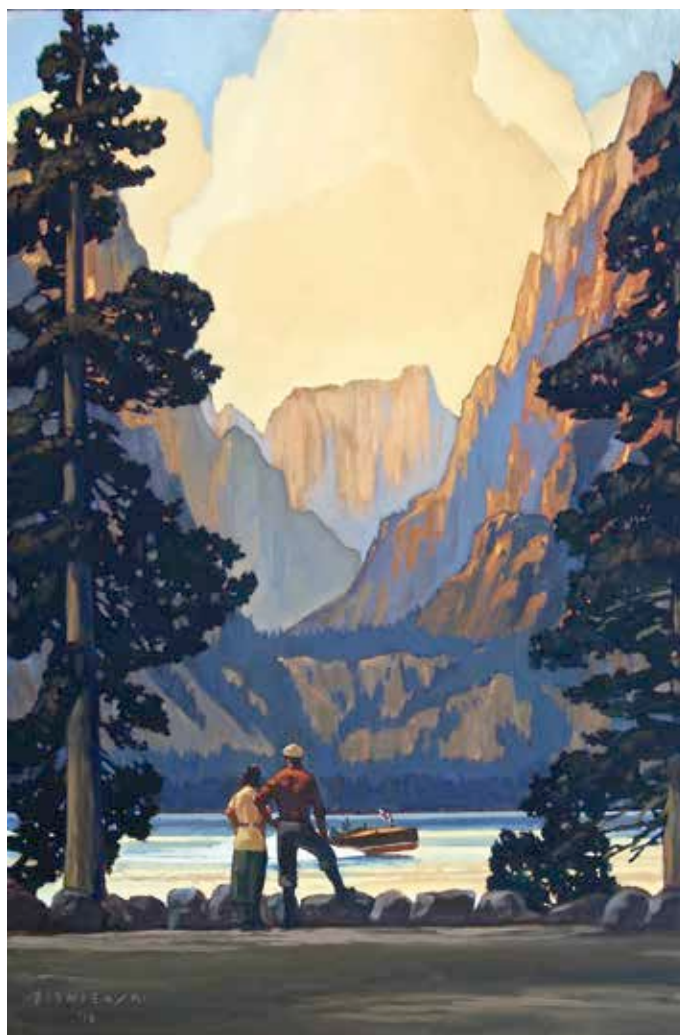
of parks—Yellowstone, Arches, Glacier, Grand Canyon and more—and is one the artist says is important to his latest series inspired by the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, as it depicts a park ranger.

This August 15 to 27, Zieminski will exhibit this and around a dozen other works for his solo show *Celebrating Our National Parks* at Altamira Fine Art in Jackson, Wyoming. "During

a recent visit to Yellowstone National Park, I became aware of the 100-year anniversary of the National Park Service. I decided I wanted to honor our national parks with a series of paintings depicting some of my favorite places," says the California-based artist. "I feel that the establishment of the National Park system was one of the wisest and most enduring acts of our country. During the last few years, I have



Old Faithful Geyser, Yellowstone National Park, oil on canvas, 48 x 30"



Jenny Lake, Grand Teton National Park, oil on canvas, 36 x 24"



By a Waterfall, National Park Service, 1916, oil on canvas, 36 x 48"

been able to spend time exploring these parks and painting them. The stunning beauty, history and wildlife provide an unlimited source of inspiration and subject matter for my paintings."

Early-20th-century travel posters also inspired Ziemenski, and he wanted to capture the appearance of them in his work. This is reflected in the design elements of the work—stemming from the artist's illustration roots and showing off his high-contrast realistic style—and the period clothing and vehicles that round out the scenes. Depicted in *Jenny Lake*, *Grand Teton National Park* is a couple at the edge of the lake watching a wooden speedboat zip through the water, while another work features the yellow bus from the Old Faithful Inn that does tours through Yellowstone National Park. Both of these could easily be seen as call-to-actions from yesteryear for visitors to get out and experience the sights of the parks.

"[Old travel posters] were made to get people out to the places; however artistically they were done, I think they did the job," says Ziemenski. "The impressions they made with me were two-fold in that it made me want to work like that."

The works are also personal for Ziemenski, as he visits these locations often with his wife, Anne. For example, *Jenny Lake* in Grand Teton



Dennis Ziemenski at work in his home studio.

is one of their favorite destinations, and they often stay at the historic Old Faithful Inn, which was built in the early 1900s. Another piece, *Old Faithful Geyser, Yellowstone National Park*, was inspired by a trip the couple took this past May.

The couple had witnessed a bison and its calf at the Old Faithful Geyser, and instead of the visitors watching the natural wonder they were enamored by the newborn and its mother. With the weather still cold, Ziemenski was

intrigued by how the animals were keeping warm, and he thought it might have to do with the steam and the hot pools. "That inspired me to put a couple of bison in there rather than people," he says. "Nature provides warmth when we least expect it." 🌿

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to  www.westernartcollector.com