



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Wallowa artist David Reinke puts finishing touches on a more abstract painting. Many of his paintings are commissions of people of places and are much more detailed.



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This watercolor of a scene in Wallowa County is an example of the pastoral work David Reinke enjoys doing.

# Artist finds inspiration in county

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Dennis Reinke is not exactly a new artist in the area — he's a returned artist. Returning to the county is a theme for many here.

Twenty years ago, he had a studio and gallery behind Stewart's Jewelry in Joseph. And he was a well-known architect in the area at the time, as well. He worked for Bill Bronson of Bronson Log

Homes and is the designer of the Creating Memories lodge, Lightning Creek Ranch house and guest quarters and other local landmarks.

"I still work every once in a while for Bronson's (now owned by Dean Hines)" he admitted.

But life carried him away to other locations, other galleries, new artistic communities and friends.

Once one begins to know artists, one finds that it's not

that unusual for architects to turn to art. Reinke is one such character. In fact, Reinke was never trained as an artist. He was trained as a bricklayer and stonemason and architect.

"I've always been more artistic, it's always been in the back of my head to do art," he recalled. "My goal was to retire by 50 and be an artist."

And when he turned 50 he began his art career in ear-

nest.

He is proficient in many styles including hand cast paper bas reliefs, bronze sculpture, abstract acrylics and others, but enjoys plein air painting the most — and many of those pieces are done in watercolor.

"Because of my work in architecture it was an easy transition to watercolor," he said.

Nowadays many of his paintings are commissions of homesteads, animals and wildlife and some are memorial portraits or family portraits he is able to create either from a collection of good photographs or in life. He is not at all concerned

about working from a photograph because his method is to "connect" to something he sees in the individual.

"I want to know, who is this guy, what does he mean to the person who commissioned it?"

That might take some time, he said.

"I want to find something that I relate to and that's what I put on the canvas."

Other times he's drawn to the architectural construction of the subject — even if that construction is a natural formation in nature.

Over his lifetime and travels he sold paintings in Taos, Bend, Loveland, Colo., and other cities.

For a time he settled in Loveland, Colo., and opened his own gallery, "Grassworks Studio." Loveland, much like Joseph, was an art town with three foundries and a community of about 150 artists. In fact, most of the places he lived while he was away from the county were artistic places, and he found the community of sharing evident among artists was very important to him.

So, when he and wife Nancy decided to move out of Colorado and find a more remote location he began looking, not just for the wilderness he loved, but for a community of sharing where a man and woman could live "small" and be engaged in what mattered to them.

The Reinkes could have lived anywhere, but after they drove 6,000 miles looking for the perfect place, Nancy said, "let's look at that lot on East Second Street in Wallowa again."

So the Reinkes came home in 2013. At first they lived in the old saddle shop on E Street in Joseph, and Dennis put his artwork in Kelly's Gallery.

But soon they were in their dream cottage with a studio attached — one that Dennis had designed — in the city of Wallowa.

Now 76, Reinke is pleased to be at home in what he hopes is his dream location and life, "doing art just for the love of it."

He has time for his studies on early civilizations.

"Did you know that Chief Joseph wore an amulet from 2042 BC?" he asked.

He studies the Bible with an analytical eye, an anthropological understanding and a heart for spirituality.

"I love Bible study," he said.

He reads new books on social psychology.

He writes poetry.

And he continues to make art in a variety of mediums.

"I love doing paintings of the people and the landscapes of Wallowa County," he said. "It's not about the money. I don't have to make a lot of money — and I don't," he laughed. "I'm not out to make awards anymore (though he does win awards for his Wallowa County paintings). I've never been an elitist when it came to anything. I've been around a lot of sharing artists, (painter) Clyde Aspevig was a good mentor — and I see that sharing very much in the community of Wallowa."

Nancy fits in as well. She has an interest in small dwellings and has an international blog on small homes "Ajoyfulcottage.com."

She is also an accomplished crafter and makes tied rugs, which Wallowa County residents may have seen at the Joseph Christmas Bazaar last December.

You can learn more about Dennis and his art by visiting Dennis Reinke Artist on Facebook or DennisReinke.com.

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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. "Be back later"
  4. Hoover's office
  7. Brew
  8. Philo and Reglis are two ("Star Wars")
  10. Actress Remini
  12. Moghul emperor
  13. Alaskan glacier
  14. Constrictor
  16. Prohibit
  17. Ancient Brittonic tribe
  19. Chinese pastry
  20. Razorbill is of this genus
  21. Beloved holiday decoration
  25. Dutch football club
  26. Aggressive dog
  27. Small piece of glass
  29. "South Park" creator \_\_ Parker
  30. Leisure activity
  31. Someone's story
  32. Record-setting swimmer
  39. Hillside
  41. Unit of measurement
  42. Famous for its potatoes
  43. Insect secretion
  44. Gate in Marrakesh
  45. Cain and \_\_
  46. A set of moral principles
  48. Repair
  49. Two-terminal semiconductor device
  50. Strongly alkaline solution
  51. Former CIA
  52. Satellite laser ranging

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Sea
  2. Cleans things
  3. More skinny
  4. Supervises flying
  5. Talk rapidly and excitedly
  6. Intestinal
  8. Don't know when yet
  9. Soluble ribonucleic acid
  11. Chinese and Vietnamese ethnic group
  14. Wild cattle genus
  15. Rock formation
  18. Makes up
  19. Resembles a pouch
  20. Having an aerial quality
  22. Windpipe
  23. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
  24. Bitterly regret
  27. Soft creamy white cheese
  28. Renamed when EU was incorporated
  29. \_\_ death do us part
  31. Sound unit
  32. Men proud of their masculinity
  33. Clergy member's vestment
  34. Hello
  35. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
  36. Marks
  37. Derived from benzene
  38. Low-melting alloy
  39. Lost blood
  40. Quantitative relation
  44. Academic degree
  47. Many subconsciouses

**Church Directory**

**Church of Christ**  
502 W. 2nd Street • Wallowa  
541-398-2509  
Worship at 11 a.m.  
Mid-week  
Bible Study 7 p.m.

**St. Patrick's Episcopal Church**  
100 NE 3rd St., Enterprise  
NE 3rd & Main St  
541-426-3439  
Worship Service  
Sunday 9:30am

**St. Katherine's Catholic Church**  
Fr. Francis Akano  
301 E. Garfield Enterprise  
Mass Schedule  
Tues-Fri 8:00 am  
Saturdays 5:30pm Sundays 10:30am  
(541)426-4008  
stkatherineenterprise.org  
St. Pius X Wallowa Sundays 8:00am  
All are welcome

**Summit Church**  
Gospel Centered Community  
Service time: 10:30 am  
Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise  
Pastor Mark Garland  
www.summitchurchoregon.org

**Joseph United Methodist Church**  
3rd & Lake St. • Joseph  
Pastor Cherie Dearth  
Phone: 541-432-3102  
Sunday Worship Service  
10:00 am  
JosephUMC.org

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
409 W. Main  
Enterprise, Oregon  
Worship 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays - 2 pm  
Bible Study  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays - 11 am  
LCMS  
(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

**Enterprise Christian Church**  
85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449  
Worship at 9 a.m.  
Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship at 6 p.m.  
(nursery at A.M. services)  
"Loving God & One Another"  
David Bruce, Sr. - Minister

**Christ Covenant Church**  
Pastor Terry Tollefson  
Church Office: 541-263-0505  
Family Prayer: 9:45am  
Sunday School: 10am  
Worship Service: 11am  
723 College Street  
Lostine

**Lostine Presbyterian Church**  
Discussion Group 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 11:00 AM  
Childrens program during service  
Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com  
541.398.0597  
Hwy 82, Lostine  
Stephen Kliever, Minister

**Enterprise Community Congregational Church**  
The Big Brown Church  
with an open door  
Pastor Archie Hook  
Sunday Worship 11am  
Bible Study 9:30am  
Ark Angels Children's Program  
Ages 4-6th grade, 11am  
Nursery for children 3 & under  
301 NE First St. • Enterprise, OR  
Find us on Facebook! 541.426.3044

**Wallowa Assembly of God**  
606 West Hwy 82  
Wallowa, Oregon  
541-886-8445  
Sunday School • 9:30  
Worship Service • 10:45  
Pastor Tim Barton  
wallowaassemblyofgod.com

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School**  
305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)  
P.O. Box N. Enterprise, OR 97828  
541-426-3751 Church  
541-426-8339 School  
Worship Services  
Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.  
Worship Hour 11:00 a.m. - Noon  
Pastor Jonathan DeWeber