

# Personal Best

**M**ore than two dozen of the top artists working today have been invited to showcase their artwork during the *Artist's Choice* exhibition at American Legacy Fine Arts in Pasadena, California.

"A successful work of fine art has the ability to connect us to humanity and nature, inspire deeper thoughts, and to stir our emotions," says Elaine Adams, director of American Legacy Fine Arts. "Additionally, a great work of traditional fine art simultaneously demonstrates time-honored skills and innovation. In *Artist's Choice*, artists were asked to create at least one new work that best exemplifies what personally excites them as artists."

Among those featured in the show are Warren Chang, Casey Childs, Jason W. Situ, Michael Situ, Calvin Liang, Adrian Gottlieb, Jim McVicker and more.

Peter Brooke brings a nearly 20-inch-long bronze of a leopard on the prowl. "I have always found big cats to be some of the most beautiful, seductive animals," he says. "The rhythms in their forms are so fluid, and they have a certain elusive quality that is hard to determine. This particular piece was based on a Northern Chinese leopard, a critically endangered subspecies, that I observed in captivity. As much as it is important for me to translate the correct anatomy into a sculptural shape, it is also

important simply to give the sculpture an overall sense of the feline," Brooke explains.

"I live in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, on a mountain pass that leads directly up into some of the most beautiful scenery in the mountains of eastern California," says artist Kathleen Dunphy. "I've spent many happy summer days escaping the heat of the lower elevations while painting in this pristine wilderness." Her show piece *Sierra Stepping Stones* is part of the artist's *Sierra Still Life* series, featuring paintings of off-the-beaten-path vignettes that depict elements of the landscape typically found in the High Sierra. "Granite boulders, majestic pines,







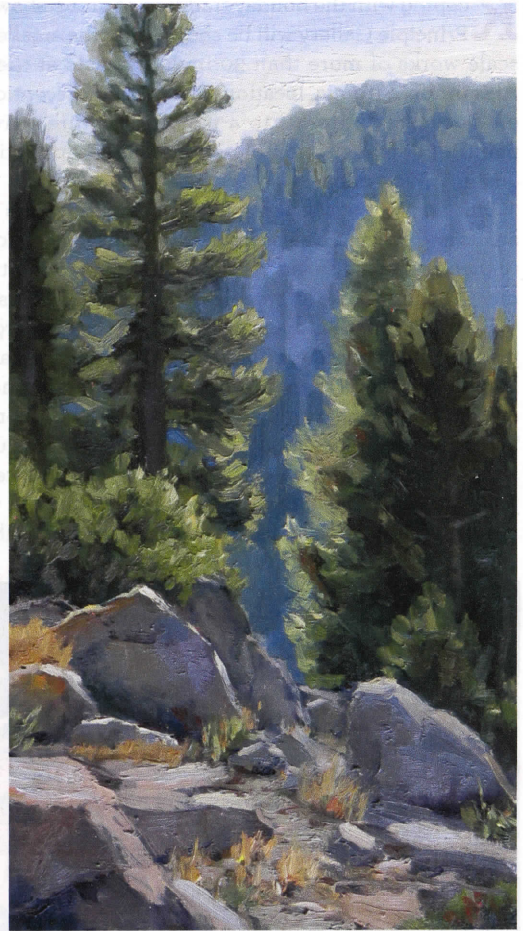
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**1**  
Peter Adams, *Summer Crescendo; Saint Malo Beach, Oceanside*, pastel, 12 x 16"

**2**  
Mary Kay West, *Bluebirds with Nest*, oil on panel, 16 x 11"

**3**  
Kathleen Dunphy, *Sierra Stepping Stones*, oil on linen, 19 x 9"

**4**  
Peter Brooke, *Small Leopard*, bronze, ed. of 6, 19½ x 10¼ x 5½"



3



4

fallen leaves and downed trees all combine in myriad intricate ways that catch my eye and make me grab my paints. Although not the typical 'grand view' vistas of the Sierra, I feel like these more intimate paintings show the essence of the area," she continues, "like a still life carefully arranged for the pleasure of the viewer. It's always a surprise and a delight when I happen upon a scene composed like this, where nature's artistry has already done most of the work for me."

*Artist's Choice* opens on November 18 with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. and continues through December 17. ●

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