

JOVE
WANG

The Spirit of the American West

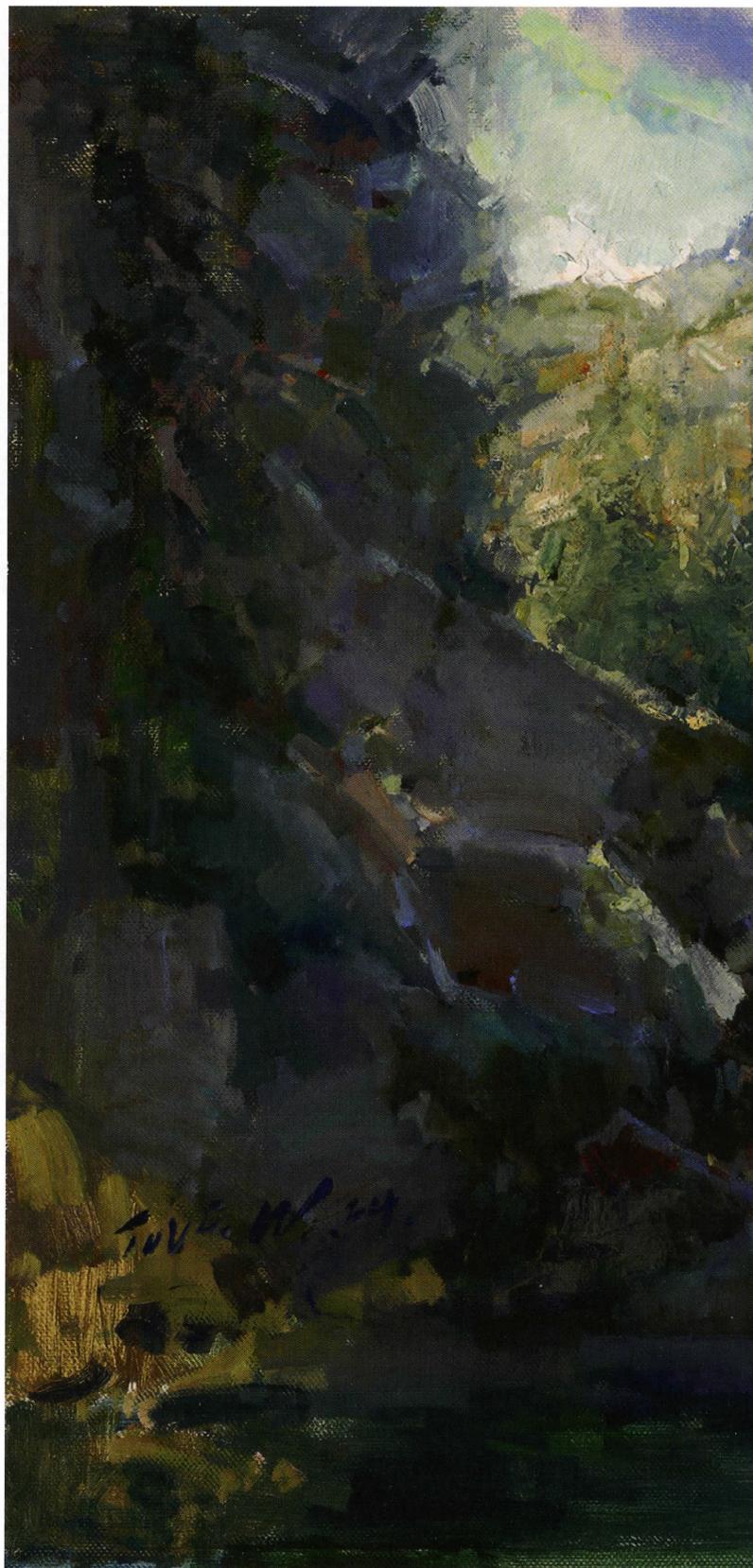
A series of new works by this California artist bridges his early life experiences in northeastern China with his current inspiration — the people and landscapes of the American West.

BY KELLY KANE

Growing up in the vast, open steppes of Inner Mongolia, Jove Wang developed a deep appreciation for expansive landscapes and the rugged beauty of untamed nature. The formative years he spent amidst rolling plains, grazing livestock, and the tribal nomadic lifestyle would have a profound influence on his artistic vision. In particular, the area's renowned horse culture — the Mongolian Cowboys — proved a fitting precursor to the dynamic scenes of life in the American West for which he would become best known.

“At the age of 7, I began to take my sketchbook and watercolors outside to paint cows, horses, farmers, and rural buildings,” says Wang. “It was only when I got to the China Academy of Art that I started to paint primarily in oil.”

By the time he moved to the United States in 1990, both landscape and oil painting were in his blood. “My painting style and approach grew from the soil of the northeastern city of Jilin, China, where I was born,” he says. “Along the way, I developed a taste for oil painting, which has its own cultural heritage. As such, the soil, the colors, the culture of the American West suit me well. I do not just create a



Chinese artist's interpretations of the region; my work reflects a unique global language of painting.”

This fall, American Legacy Fine Arts in Pasadena, California, is presenting “Jove Wang: Spirit of the American West,” a solo exhibition featuring 20 of the artist's new landscape and figure paintings, from October 18 to November 16. Gallery Director Elaine Adams says this about the show: “His paintings invite viewers to appreciate the beauty



Packing in the Canyon

2024, oil, 30 x 48 in.

Available from American Legacy Fine Arts,
Pasadena, CA

Plein air and studio

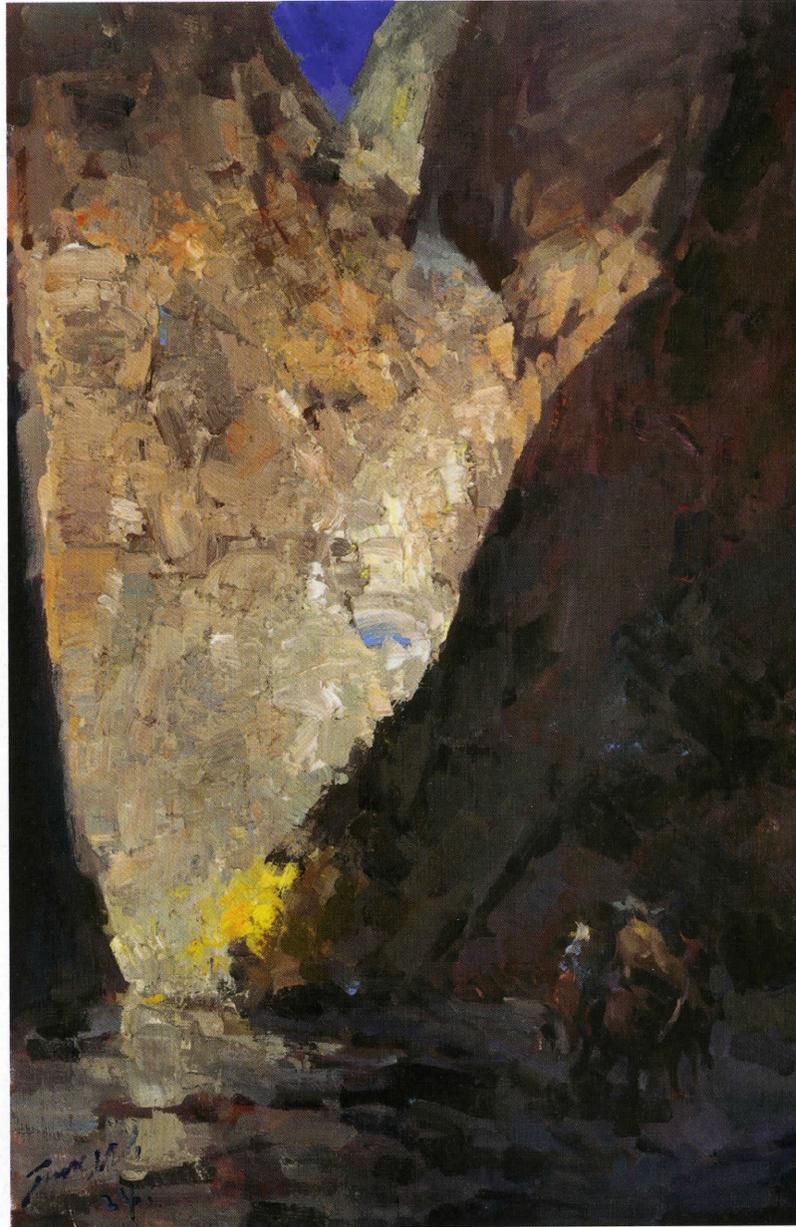


A Western Girl in Red Dress

2024, oil, 24 x 20 in.

Available from American Legacy Fine Arts, Pasadena, CA

Plein air and studio



The Narrows Rider

2024, oil, 22 x 15 in.

Available from American Legacy Fine Arts, Pasadena, CA

Plein air and studio



Yellow Headband

2024, oil, 12 x 10 in.

Available from American Legacy Fine Arts, Pasadena, CA

Plein air and studio

and majesty of these landscapes while reflecting on the shared human experiences that connect diverse cultures and geographies. Through this exhibition, Wang not only honors his past but also enriches our understanding of the intricate ties between land, culture, and identity.

“His subjects evoke a timeless spirit of the American West, which is further accentuated through his sweeping brushwork and vivid palette. Through his art, Wang conveys not only the physical attributes of the landscape but also the spirit of adventure, resilience, and freedom that defines the American West.”



A Happy Chicken Family

2024, oil, 10 x 12 in.

Available from American Legacy Fine Arts, Pasadena, CA

Plein air and studio

ARTWORK WITH SOUL

Every painting in the show, whether landscape or figure, draws on the artist's abundant plein air painting experience. "Art must come from life," says Wang. "Without life experience, you can't create artwork with soul. For me, plein air painting is by no means just for making sketches, but always for painting a work with life."

Rich with culture, diverse landscapes, and a variety of ethnic groups, the American West holds endless inspiration for the artist, whose latest work aptly reflects its vitality and range. "The more I understand and appreciate the Western culture, and the characteristics and charm of Western people, the more I become fascinated by them," he says. ✎

The Blacksmith

2024, oil, 24 x 20 in.

Available from American Legacy Fine Arts, Pasadena, CA

Plein air and studio

