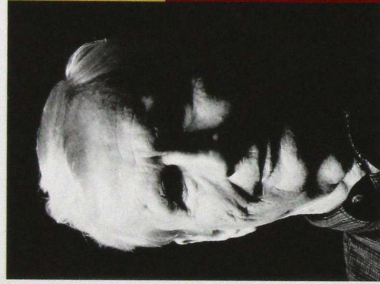


2006 Quest for the West Art Show and Sale

Opening Activities: Friday, September 8 through Sunday, September 10, 2006
Exhibition: September 10 – October 8, 2006

Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art
Indianapolis, Indiana



Wilson Hurley



Born 1924, Tulsa, Oklahoma;
lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico

The "Sandia Shield" is the name of a great granite fault that stands a mile high north-east of Albuquerque. In the morning as the sun creeps over the edge of the mountain it lights the many jagged peaks that make up the west face. This view is painted from Juan Tabo Canyon looking north in the late fall with craters of gray rock in the valley.

CELEBRATED INTERNATIONALLY as a premier painter of southwestern landscapes, Wilson Hurley's expansive vistas frequently feature more sky than land. This is not surprising; the former Army and Air Force pilot spent a great deal of time in the sky before becoming a painter, and many of his works portray an expansive sky, often the scene of a dramatic cloud formation or weather event. "The difference between the representational landscape painter of today and one of a hundred years ago is reflected in scientific advancement," he notes. "The fact that we have seen the world, not just through our own eyes but through others' eyes as well, influences the way we make certain corrections or alterations."

In 1935, the Hurley family moved to Santa Fe, NM, where his mother's cultural interests and connections opened doors for the young Hurley, who was interested

in art. Several prominent members of the Taos and Santa Fe art colonies gave him lessons and allowed him to watch them paint.

After high school, Hurley did not pursue an art career but attended the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, graduating in 1942 with a degree in engineering. After serving in the military as a jet fighter pilot, he entered law school, received his degree in 1951, and returned to New Mexico to practice law.

In 1965, Hurley began to paint full time. In 1977, he was presented with the Trustees' Medal for contributions to western art by the National Cowboy Hall of Fame (now the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum). He has also been honored with several one-man exhibitions at western art museums, including the Eiteljorg, which presented him with the Eiteljorg Award for Excellence in 1991.

Sandia Shield

2005, oil on canvas, 30 x 24 inches



