



WILSON HURLEY, AUGUST EVENING IN NEW MEXICO, OIL, 60 x 60.

Fauntleroy, Gussie. "New Mexico Regionalists." *Southwest Art (U.S.A.)* 31.9

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Wilson Hurley, an acclaimed landscape painter, has been thinking about the air in

New Mexico lately. The high altitude in much of the state creates an unusually bright sky at the horizon, which affects the look of everything else in the landscape. In particular, there's a strong contrast between the bright horizon and darker blue at the sky's zenith. It's one of the things Hurley has learned to notice and consider in the more than 40 years he's been painting in the state. He is also intrigued by

the way dryness has obliged the land to reveal itself. "It's all there," he says. "The anatomy shows—all the bones of the land." And across that sweep of exposed terrain, he notes, "the flow of summer water leaves its traces vividly on the face of the land."

But the even more wonderful thing about New Mexico is that it's not all "broken desert," as Hurley puts it. There is so much more. "There's tremendous variation in the opportunities for landscape: the flat plains of the *llano*, the staccato hills, the Colorado-

like mountains on the northern border—from Sonoran/Chihuahua desert to an almost Hudson Bay climate—and very few states have that."

Hurley is represented by Nedra Matteucci's Fenn Gallery, Santa Fe, NM; Altermann Galleries, Dallas, TX; Morris & Whiteside Galleries, Hilton Head Island, SC; and Grapevine Gallery, Oklahoma City, OK.

Gussie.