

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 May 2020

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A new book chronicles the life and art of Wilson Hurley

SANTA FE, NM. The art world has long awaited this first and only book documenting one of the twentieth century's most important painters: Wilson Hurley (1924-2008). Written by Wilson's artist/wife Rosalyn Roembke Hurley, *The Life and Art of Wilson Hurley: Celebrating the Richness of Reality* focuses on her husband's four-decade commitment to sharing what he described as "a very real love that I have for the world. I experience physical pleasure when I look at it."

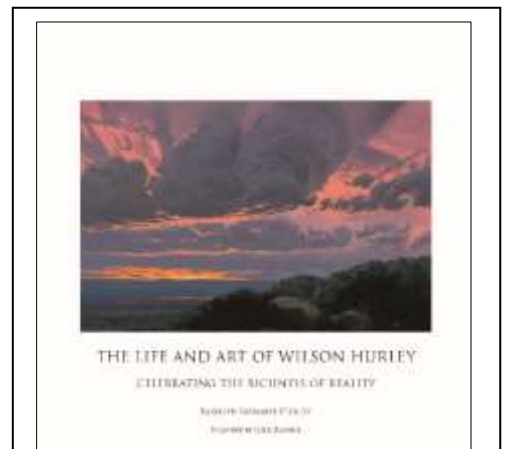
Renowned for depicting landscapes, weather phenomena, and space exploration into our solar system, Hurley had a remarkable ability to convey both the richness of reality, while simultaneously compelling viewers to revel in the magnificence of a moment. His philosophy of combining science and art—head and heart— is apparent in everything from a dramatic sunrise at the



Grand Canyon to a still life of a night-blooming cereus blossom. Often working in large formats, his monumental Windows to the West project at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City is covered from conception through his innovations in painting, shipping, mounting, and installing five 16-by-36-foot triptychs. (Left: Hurley with the unmounted central panel of *New Mexico Suite*).

Highlights of Hurley's youth include growing up in Leesburg, VA, pursuit of degrees at West Point and The George Washington University Law School, and a lifelong love of flying. Paintings from his service as a pilot during the Vietnam War illustrate how viewing the world from a cockpit impacted Hurley's predilection for glorious cloud formations. His studies of the Old Masters and artists such as George Inness, John Constable, and the Impressionists reinforced his decision at age 40 to become more than a Sunday painter and to follow the advice of Peter Hurd not to attend art school but to commit himself to learning from the giants of the past and then "paint, and paint some more."

Rosalyn, whose painting career was mentored by her husband, also shares Wilson's methods, techniques, and philosophy of art whether painting in the studio or outdoors. His commitment to plein air fieldwork at the behest of his mentor Bob Lougheed reveals why



SPECS 11-by-11 inches, 380 pages, 212 color plates, list price \$80

PUBLISHER Fresco Books, Albuquerque, NM

MEDIA KIT with jpg images and sample PDF pages at wilson-hurley.com

AVAILABLE through Amazon and University of New Mexico Press, 1717 Roma Ave. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106, 800.249.7737

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Hurley also paid forward his knowledge. In letters published here for the first time, Hurley elucidates his personal goals as examples that might help young and mid-career painters find their unique paths. In judging art, as he was often asked to do, he offers insights in evaluating the elements of art. Also of interest are preliminary sketches and thumbnails that illuminate how he took a vast vista and transformed it into a work of art. (Right: *Field Study: November Cottonwoods at Algodones, 2003*, oil, 16x16)



A wordsmith himself, Hurley's commentary accompanies two portfolios comprising seventy-eight paintings. From his Prix de West winner *Los Alamos Country* to World War I Bristol F-2 fighter aircraft, the clipper ship *Sea Witch*, and a Mariner 4 Mars flyby, he shares historical details, insights, and his affection for places nearby and faraway.



At the core of Hurley's passion was his belief that he lived in a new age of discovery: "Where I'm luckier [than my predecessors] is that I live during a time when our view of the world has a much greater perspective. We've seen it from outside the world. We've had views that are so vast and breathtaking that they couldn't even imagine them. I feel as if I have lived through an age of discovery much like the people did in the Renaissance when they discovered the New World." (Left: *Columbia at 30 Seconds, 1981*, oil, 40x36)

From beginning to end, this book celebrates nature and the human craving to learn more about our place in the universe. As noted in the foreword by Peter Hassrick, "Wilson Hurley lived and looked and loved larger than life.... His heart tugged the whole of his ample being into a world of inextricable union between man and nature – one that demanded the full embrace of his physical, spiritual, and creative self and defined him as a man and an artist. His were not solemn meditations on a Thoreau-sized forest pond but rather boisterous proclamations of vast scale considering the dynamics of Earth's most spectacular marvels." (Below: *Buddha Temple From the Hopi Wall, 1978*, oil, 60x120)





Rosalyn Roembke Hurley was born in Indianapolis and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. For a decade she worked in research and administrative capacities at the University of New Mexico, before marrying Wilson in 1969. From the early 1970s onward, Rosalyn and Wilson worked as a team, with Rosalyn assisting in all aspects of his career. A professional artist herself, she credits her painting education to lessons learned from her husband of nearly forty years.

From the Rosalyn's Preface: "I believed that making a book about Wilson was my responsibility because the story could not be told as I can tell it. Once I accepted the challenge, it was clear that the tale was broader and richer than a simple chronology. Wilson made difficult choices in order to dedicate himself to painting at the age of forty. He studied, painted, and taught for another forty-plus years. This is an account of his journey."

Foreword author Peter Hassrick (1941-2019) served twenty years as director of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. He went on to be the founding director of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, the Charles Russell Center for the Study of Western American Art at OU, and the Petrie Institute of American Western Art at the Denver Art Museum. The author of dozens of books and articles, he curated a Wilson Hurley retrospective in the mid-1980s.

Book Signings with Rosalyn Roembke Hurley

Please check with each organization for updates on scheduling.

Saturday, June 27, 2020, 10 am to 3 pm

In conjunction with the exhibition "Wilson Hurley: The Richness of Reality," June 27 to July 25, 2020
Nedra Matteucci Galleries, 1075 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 982-4631, [website](#)

TO BE RESCHEDULED, Sunday, 1:00 pm

Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104
(505) 243-7255, [website](#)