

Ross Stehan

Ross Stefan (1934-1999)

Born on June 13, 1934 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Ross Stefan developed a love for the arts at an early age. His father, who worked in advertising, provided Stefan with just the right amount of art to wet his lips. By the age of 13 Stefan debuted his first one-man show. Soon after, because of health, he moved to southern Arizona.

Engulfed in the love for the western atmosphere, Stefan began sketching landscapes. He has been called a self-taught artist, but got encouragement from the Wisconsin Illustrator, Dan Muller on several visits.

Stefan became an art student at the University of Arizona. During his education he did part time sketching for the Tuscan Newspaper. He thrived on the works of his early muse, Norman Rockwell, as an inspiration in technique. It is rumored that Ivan Rosequist of the Rosequist Gallery in Tucson was the encouragement that Stefan needed to blossom as an artist to his fullest potential.

Whether or not Rosequist was that influence, by 1955 Ross Stefan took the leap, and began painting full time with a studio and gallery in Tubac, Arizona. That same year, Stefan stayed with the Navajos, using the land and the people as his ongoing trademark.

His paintings became a sensation. In 1971, his New York One-Man Show consisting of 16 oils of Southwestern landscapes and figures, proved to be quite successful with a virtual sell-out the first night. By his brush strokes, which are airy and wide, he has gained the reputation as an impressionist artist. His painting demonstrates the development of color, which has been called the highlight of impressionist art.

#42 Lufkin City Hall –Oil painting on canvas. Mexican women in a covered wagon stopping at outpost in the desert. Very colorful.