

## **SANDRA DAL POGGETTO: Artist Statement**

*“Dal Poggetto’s paintings embody the vivid, close relation to the landscape of the American West that we can attain. They step past the picture window.”*

– MARK STEVENS, ART CRITIC, WRITER AND CO-AUTHOR OF *DE KOONING: AN AMERICAN MASTER*

**GROWING UP IN THE COASTAL HILLS** of northern California instilled in me a wonder and love of the natural world. Born with an artist’s temperament, I studied art and over time found that my natural subject was landscape. After travel beyond my home, I chose to live and work in the Rocky Mountain West. The demanding elements and reverse ratio of people to land attracted me.

I deepened my understanding of landscape by learning to hunt wild game birds and deer in the forests and high plains. This helped me make a vital connection between the modern and the archaic: the archaic is still fully present—the birds are still here; the animals are still here; all the elements of the living landscape are still here. This realization came to me when I walked into the pre-Columbian room of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and saw the 7th century featherworks of the Wari. I was shocked to recognize my own contemporary landscape.

The Euro-American tradition of landscape painting represents a spectator’s view of nature. That is no longer my perspective. I don’t want to be just a spectator. Rather, I want to engage with my animate surroundings. With rich paints and luxurious feathers and pelts, I hope to both honor and challenge that Euro-American tradition and give form to a fresh, and also ancient, awareness of the natural world.