

TED RAFTERY



PAINTING THE BIG ALBERTA SKY

Cover Page, **Ted Raftery** in front of one of his favourite paintings
This Page, above, **A Place to Breathe**, oil on canvas, 18" x 24"



Previous Page, **Mossleigh**, oil on canvas, 40" x 30"

This Page, above, **Storm near Wrentham, Alberta**, oil on canvas, 18" x 24"

Ted Raftery - has been painting full-time in the Calgary area since 1978. He enjoys Calgary as a base because of its proximity to the mountains, foothills, prairie and wetlands, all of which he loves to paint. Ted is also very fond of portraying the extremely changeable Alberta weather which you can see in many of his painting.

People call Alberta "Big Sky Country," and for good reason ... the sky looks big. It doesn't matter that it's the same sky we all see by day or night from wherever we are - in Alberta the sky just looks different - bigger - like some natural optical illusion designed specifically to "WOW" us out of our daily cares.



Previous Page, **Storm Warming**, oil on canvas, 24" x 18"
This Page, above, **Evening Nimbus**, oil on canvas, 16" x 20"
This Page, below, **Big Sky Alberta**, oil on canvas, 15" x 40"





Previous Page 1 and 2, one single painting, **Gathering Storm**, oil on canvas, 40" x 60"

This Page, above, **Skyscape**, oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

Following Page, **Evening Thunderstorm**, oil on canvas, 20" x 16"

Following Page 2, **top, Storm Coming On**, oil on canvas, 24" x 36"

Following Page 2, **bottom, Name**, oil on canvas, 0" x 0"

Following Page 3, **Alberta Spring**, oil on canvas, 40" x 30"

As a child in England, Ted was constantly drawing and painting, mostly from his imagination. In his early teens he realized that he achieved better results when he sketched from nature.

After a while he joined an art club and was able to draw from live models and plaster casts - this improved his skills markedly but he never had a chance to attend an art school to receive formal tuition as at that time art schools were only teaching graphic arts and various modernism's that in vogue at that time.

Ted's interest lay in a more traditional approach and he continued along that path. By his early twenty's he was married with a family and job as an electrician.







Previous Page, Big Country II, oil on canvas, 24" x 18"

*This Page, above, **Name**, oil on canvas, 0" x 0"*

*Following Page, top, **Cloudburst**, oil on canvas, 18" x 24"*

*Following Page, bottom, **Storm Over the Rockies**, oil on canvas, 20" x 40"*

*Following Page 2, **Kneehills Creek**, oil on canvas, 40" x 30"*

His painting became sporadic for a while but he continued to study the fine art in the English public art galleries, such as the National Gallery in London and the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

On immigrating to Canada in 1974, the landscape here inspired him to take up the brush and palette again. At first he painted prairie scenes and grain elevators and always the big Alberta sky he admired so much. His interest in cross-country skiing led him to also paint mountains and the beauty of winter. The sky – in particular the changing clouds has dominated the beauty of his paintings for quite a long time, regardless of the season.





Previous Page, top, **Calm Before the Storm**, oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

Previous Page, bottom, **Banded Peak**, oil on canvas, 24" x 36"

This Page, above, **Sunlit Valley**, oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

Following Page, top, **Changing Weather**, oil on canvas, 8" x 36"

Following Page, top middle, **Cloud Shadows**, oil on canvas, 12" x 24"

Following Page, bottom middle, **Prairie Gold**, oil on canvas, 8" x 36"

Following Page, bottom, **Afternoon Thunderstorm**, oil on canvas, 8" x 36"

Following Page 2, top, **Elevators at Milo, 1980**, oil on canvas, 18" x 24"

Following Page 2, bottom, **Building Thunderstorm**, oil on canvas, 24" x 48"

The beauty of the sky is captured in all of Ted Raftery's paintings. The shape of the clouds racing at times and sauntering in others across the big blue sky is mesmerizing and there are few artists that showcase this defining sculptural movement.

Being from Alberta originally, Ted's paintings make me homesick for moments when I was sitting on the porch on a warm summer afternoon. In Alberta you can see weather coming across the sky from a long ways away.





Previous Page, top, **Prairie Thunder**, oil on canvas, 24" x 36"

Previous Page, bottom, **A Storm to the East**, oil on canvas, 24" x 36"

This Page, above, **Canola Time**, oil on canvas, 16" x 20"

By 1978 he had placed paintings with the Gainsborough Galleries in Calgary, and they were selling readily.

At that time he decided to quit his job and to paint full time. With the help of the Gallery he was able to make a living on his sales. Now Ted's painting grace the walls of many corporations and businesses and also many private homes in Canada, UK, USA, Hong Kong, Australia and many other places around the world.

Since the closing of Gainsborough at the end of 2018, Ted now has found a new Gallery to represent him in Calgary, at Webster Galleries in the SE of the city. Webster's hopes to continue to expose new people to Ted's work and provide a venue for his many avid followers for years to come.



This Page, top, **Foothills Homestead**, oil on canvas, 30" x 48"
This Page, bottom, **Great Blue Heron**, oil on canvas, 20" x 40"



This Page, above, **Big Country**, oil on canvas, 40" x 60"

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85th Birthday Party
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11:00 - 3:00
Cake and Champagne
1:00 PM