

# GERALD PETERS GALLERY

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For Immediate Release

## SOUTHWESTERN SOJOURNS Travels with a Painter

Talk and Talkback at Travel Bug Bookshop  
Saturday April 1, 2023 @ 5 pm  
839 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe. NM 87501  
(505) 992-0418

Author and painter **James Lancel McElhinney** has drawn inspiration from the New Mexico landscape since 1980. Inspired by historic expeditionary artists, his most recent book: *Sketchbook Traveler Southwest*, McElhinney celebrates the practice of drawing, painting and writing in journals to celebrate mindful travel, in ways that promote environmental awareness, expand historical knowledge, enrich personal experience, and lead to self-discovery.

On April 1, 2023, McElhinney will unpack the backstory behind his latest book, sharing some of his adventures in the Land of Enchantment.

"*Sketchbook Traveler* is not just a respectful and insightful journey into our artistic heritage but very much places itself in the contemporary: it urges us to revel in our unique environment and situate these amazing landscapes firmly in our ground of being."

—John Macker, author of *Desert Threnody*

McElhinney is a graduate of Yale School of Art—Frederick Remington's Alma Mater.

He is the recipient of an artist fellowship from the National Endowment for The Arts, and a grant from the Pollock Krasner Foundation. His artworks are found in the collections of the Petrie Institute of Western Art and the Museum of the Southwest. They are featured in its 2021 book *The American West in Art*, published by the Denver Art Museum in 2021. Excerpts from *Sketchbook Traveler Southwest* appear in the March 2023 issue of *Western Art Collector* magazine. Listed on the Master Artist Council of the Arthur Miller Foundation, McElhinney is represented in Santa Fe by Gerald Peters Gallery.

### Praise for *Sketchbook Traveler*:

"Following in the footsteps of such noted artist-travelers as Albrecht Durer and David Hockney, as well as explorers such as Charles Darwin and Marianne North, James Lancel McElhinney has crafted a beautiful work of devotion to the American Southwest called *Sketchbook Traveler*. It includes his own essays about places he loves, such as Monument Valley and Joshua Tree National Park, along with his plein air paintings featuring the topography of these wonders. Adding to the mix is distinctive 19th century art featuring the landscape of our wide-open spaces. Plus the book has suggestions for photographers and artists who seek to commune with the desert in a way that makes use of math to render its majesty - creating one's own "golden mean."



Fig. 5.

LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTHWEST FROM 36.4758, -105.7332



Fig. 6.

ROADSIDE VISTA, RIO GRANDE GORGE FROM NM68,

NORTHEAST FROM 36.4105, 105.2424

—Deanna Stillman, author of *Mustang: The Saga of the Wild Horse in the American West*.

"Erudite and rich with anecdote, *Sketchbook Traveler* takes us on an artist's-eye journey along the mighty Hudson, through the landscapes that have shaped our national history and culture. McElhinney's warm prose and exquisite, keenly-observed sketches open our mind and eyes to our own potential for mindful, artful travels."

—Sean E. Sawyer, Ph.D. | The Olana Partnership

"James is the *pied piper* of sketchbook journaling, providing not only patient and inspiring DIY instruction; but linking one's personal practice to the passionate explorers, pilgrims, and travelers of old."

—Craig Bruns, Chief Curator. Independence Seaport Museum, Philadelphia

"Part artistic history, . . . part travel guide, and part how-to-manual on how to be a sketchbook traveler McElhinney's volume is as absorbing as it is beautiful. McElhinney is that rare contemporary artist who at once seems to live in our 21st century moment of environmental consciousness and at the same time follow in the footsteps of 18th century topographic explorers and 19th century picturesque artists. His knowledge is voracious, and his writing style witty and gregarious. Above all his sketches are transportive, and inspire the reader to travel along in his footsteps, and above all be not afraid to venture out on their own path, to turn looking into seeing, and to record their own journeys."

—Anna O. Marley, Ph.D. Kenneth R. Woodcock Curator of Historical American Art, Director of the Center for the Study of the American Artist

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