

The Watercolor Whisperer returns to Public Television

In Big Sky Country, they don't just whisper to horses. Sometimes the creation of a watercolor painting needs some "soft-talking" through, too.

This winter, Montana artist, Gary Spetz, will return with a 4th season of his popular PBS how-to-paint series: *Gary Spetz's Painting Wild Places! with Watercolors*.

As his program title suggests, each episode depicts a new "wild place"—and how to paint it. Spetz transforms natural scenes into beautiful watercolor paintings—carefully walking the viewer through his easy to follow, step-by-step painting process.

As the first TV-Artist who is a "signature member" of the prestigious National Watercolor Society, Spetz brings TV how-to-paint programming to a whole new level. Yet he is careful to deliver his lessons in a format that is both entertaining and palatable to beginning painters. He has designed his programs, he says, for the emerging "boomer painters"—the rapidly expanding population of retirees who now want to follow their bliss of becoming artists. "I try to teach not only how to paint, but also how to see, as a landscape artist," contends Spetz.



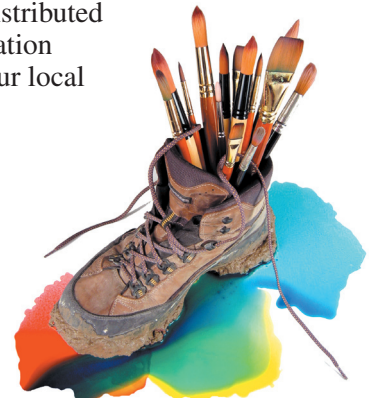
He acquired the nickname, "Watercolor Whisperer", when students at one of his workshops noticed that he would often study his paintings-in-progress from a distance. When seen doing this in a wide-open meadow, with a dramatic Montana mountain backdrop—crouched down like Robert Redford's "Horse Whisperer"—the moniker was inevitable.

Spetz is passionate about watercolor painting. In his not-so-humble opinion, watercolor painting is the only way to go! "The medium is clean, challenging—at times unpredictable—and, most importantly, is the best at capturing the subtleties of natural landscapes." Spetz claims that watercolor is the fastest growing painting medium—"as it should be."

But, to follow one's yearning and become a watercolor painter, one must first pick up the paintbrush. "That's the hardest step," says Spetz. "Watercolor painting, with practice, is easy. It's a matter of keeping the brush going." As he urges at the end of each of his episodes, "whatever you do, don't let your paints dry out. Keep on painting!" After all, says Spetz, "if you really think about it, there is so little time, and so much to paint!"

Gary Spetz's *Painting Wild Places! with Watercolors* is presented by MontanaPBS and is distributed throughout the US and parts of Canada, by American Public Television. Each local PBS station schedules how-to-paint programs independently, so call your local PBS station or check your local listings for the times and dates of airing.

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