



## Jackie Penner

One might ask how you become a skilled artist? The most probable answer is "go to school," but for western and wildlife artist Jackie Penner the answer is "live in an old rural schoolhouse, surrounded with an abundance of wildlife, and paint, paint, paint."

Yes, Jackie Penner's home and studio for the past 35 years have been in the renovated Lost Springs country school house, that she shares with her husband on the family farm. The old classrooms have been turned into bedrooms, and the main schoolroom is now the kitchen. Antique furniture, much of it refinished by Jackie, adds the warm touch of the once one-room schoolhouse era. Skylights have been installed in the schoolhouse to increase the soft light in Jackie's kitchen and studio where many hours are spent in creating her artwork.



Viewing a collage of Jackie Penner paintings is like taking a virtual tour of the land farmed by the Penner family in Southeastern Washington. Much of her wildlife reference material has been gathered while riding her Quarter Horses over the picturesque terrain. Quietly riding up on two young badgers playing can bring emotional experiences, which she transfers to canvas, eventually being shared by an admirer or art collector. Just as her husband's family is known for raising and showing Belgian Draft horses for many years, paintings of these powerful majestic animals are fast becoming Jackie's signature pieces. Her art is all about sharing the love of the farm life, animals, and wildlife that surround her.

As a child, Jackie began working in pencil while in grade school and then later moved into oil painting after marriage. Although mostly self-taught, she never missed any opportunity to learn. She enrolled in a four year Correspondence Art course with the Katchina School of Art and has studied under such artists as Enabniet, Terry Isaacs, Daniel Smith, Paco Young, and John Banovich.

Art has always been a part of her life but took a back seat to raising two children, who now are married and have families of their own. After the kids were on their own Jackie found that the farming business still took some of her time as bookkeeper, but there was more time to devote to her artwork.

To improve her artistic skills, she has constantly challenged herself to broader venues. After showing locally for many years Jackie decided to branch out and enter a Women Artists of the West International art show in Dubois, Wyoming. She also sent a membership application in that same year to Women Artists of the West. She was not sure if she would be accepted into either event but felt that trying for two things improved her chances for acceptance into at least one. Much to her surprise she was accepted in the show at Dubois Wyoming and was also accepted for WAOW Associate membership later in the year.

Jackie found that from that time on things never slowed down, with being able to show her work at some of the membership shows held at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California to the National Arts Foundation in Chicago, Illinois. In time, Jackie also found herself taking on the job of Ad Director for Women Artists of the West for two years and now holds the office of 2007 Women Artists of the West President.

As time has passed and challenges have been met Jackie finds she has learned many lessons. Not by going through what you would call conventional schooling but by living life to the fullest and painting what she loves in the old refurbished Lost Springs Schoolhouse she calls home.

*For more editorial information about this artist, please contact the artist directly:*

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### Image Tiff files provided:

PennerBearonRocks.tif  
"Spring Fever," 18 x 19, Oil

PennerHeadTeam.tif  
"Header Team," 18 x 24, Oil