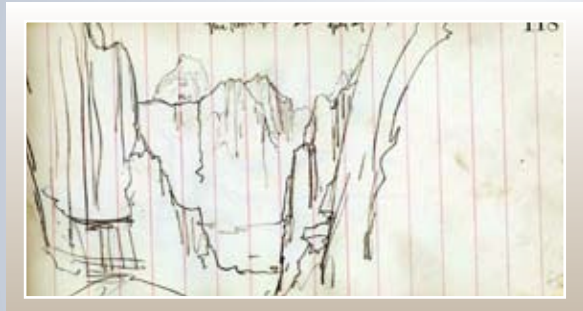


Invitational

ARTISTS' PAINT-OUT

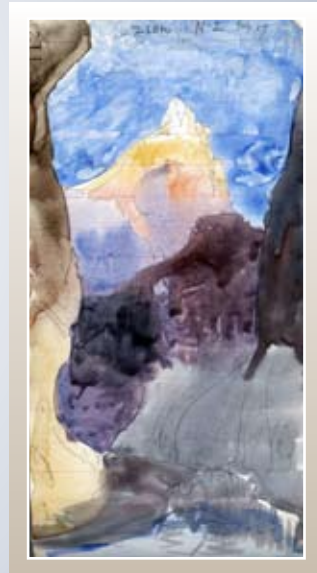
"In the Footsteps of Thomas Moran"

This event is hosted by Zion National Park and Z-Arts! in conjunction with Zion Canyon Visitors Bureau, Zion National Park and the Thunderbird Foundation for the Arts.



In 1873, Thomas Moran traveled with John Wesley Powell's expedition to record and interpret "the most remarkable scenery" of western America, including Zion Canyon. Moran was in a position to fulfill the interests of both kinds of western art patron – large oils for the more traditional collector and sketches for the explorer-scientist.

Following this and seven other trips, Moran established his reputation from these pencil and watercolor field sketches. Impressed by Moran's watercolors, Congress declared the Yellowstone area our first national park. Zion became a national park 37 years later in 1909.



In recognition of the enormous impact of Thomas Moran on our national parks and in celebration of the Centennial of Zion National Park, 21 nationally known artists will paint from Monday, April 20, through Thursday, April 23, 2009.

The Virgin River has twisted, turned and trees have grown and toppled over during the past 135 years but seven sites were determined from Moran's previously unpublished sketches and watercolors.

Site maps will be provided at the Visitor Center, or upon request from the Park entrance gates, during the Invitational to observe these respected artists.

A WET PAINT SALE will take place at 5:00 PM on Friday, April 24, 2009, at the Bingham Gallery in Mt. Carmel, east of Zion National Park.

The gallery is located at the Maynard Dixon home and studio (Thunderbird Foundation for the Arts). During the Open Studio & Gallery Tour auction on Saturday evening, April 25, each Invitational artist will also have a piece up for auction.

Each of the following artists will have representative works in exhibitions at the Human History Museum in Zion National Park and at the Bingham Gallery from April 14 - May 26.

The Human History Museum will also have an excellent historic exhibit of Thomas Moran's trip during this important time in our public lands.