

Cynthia Carmichael Smith

Wildlife Artist — American West

Frisco, Texas

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PROFILE

Wildlife artist working primarily in acrylic on canvas, focusing on animals of the American West inspired by field experiences in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. My background in biomedical illustration and graphic design informs a detailed yet expressive approach to wildlife portraiture.

EDUCATION

MA — Biomedical Illustration

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas (1993)

MBA — Marketing

Wayne State University, Detroit (1990)

BS — Packaging

Michigan State University, East Lansing (1987)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & ARTISTIC BACKGROUND

Formal training in traditional and scientific illustration techniques including graphite, charcoal, ink, airbrush, and cell painting during graduate studies in biomedical illustration.

Professional experience in graphic design and visual communication developed through corporate design studios and independent practice.

PUBLICATIONS & RECOGNITION

Society of Illustrators — 37th Annual of American Illustration (1995)

Editorial section — *Copperhead*

Journal of the American Medical Association — PULSE Medical Student Section

Cover illustration — *Copperhead* (Nov 3, 1993)

Cover illustration — *Sal F. Posm* (Apr 7, 1993)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder / Graphic Designer

Carmichael Creative, LLC — Frisco, Texas (1997–2017)

Graphic design studio specializing in layout, print design, and brand identity.

Graphic Designer

MCI Planners — Dallas, Texas (1995–1998)

Graphic Designer

CompuCom — Dallas, Texas (1992–1995)

INDEPENDENT CREATIVE WORK

Founder / Illustrator

Note-Worthy People Notecard Collection (2000–2010)

Illustrated and produced a series of greeting cards featuring original character illustrations printed and sold as sets.

SELECTED WORKS

- *Mama Bear* — acrylic on canvas, 2025
- *Snow and Silence* — acrylic on canvas, 2026
- *That Which Endures* — acrylic on canvas, 2026
- *Alert* — acrylic on canvas, 2026
- *Releasing the Roar* — acrylic on canvas, 2026
- *Prairie Thunder* — acrylic on board, 2025
- *Frost and Fire* — acrylic on canvas, 2025
- *Peekaboo* — acrylic on canvas, 2025

SELECTED COMMISSIONS & DONATIONS

- *Herbie, Jackson, Emma, and CJ* — colored pencil portraits created for fundraising auction benefiting **Freedom for Great Apes Sanctuary**, Bend, Oregon

COLLECTIONS

- **Private Collection, Seattle, Washington** — *Mama Bear*

FIELD OBSERVATION & STUDY

- Extensive field observation and photography of wildlife and landscape subjects across multiple U.S. national parks, wildlife refuges, zoos, and sanctuaries
- Repeated study visits to **Yellowstone National Park** and **Grand Teton National Park**
- Maintains a personal photographic reference library developed through on-site observation

ARTISTIC PRACTICE

Trained in traditional and scientific illustration techniques including paints, airbrush, graphite, charcoal, and ink.

Current work focuses primarily on acrylic painting on stretched canvas depicting wildlife subjects of the American West.

Artwork is signed “**Cynthia Carmichael Smith.**”