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***Renowned Oil Wash Painter, Nicholas Pace, Named Featured Artist  
For Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival in March***



Thunderbird Artists is proud to feature Nicholas Pace, western and Native American oil painter, for our Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Nicholas was born on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1963, in Menlo Park, California. His father, John Pace, a technical illustrator for Lockheed began teaching Nick when he was six years old and began teaching him how to paint when he was sixteen. Nick sold his first painting at the age of seventeen at New Masters Gallery in Carmel, California. By age twenty-one, he was also showing at art events nationwide.

Pace draws his inspiration from books and stories about Native Americans. “The stories make pictures in my mind.” Pace also rendezvous with mountain men and attends powwows, the Crow Indian Fair in Montana and visits reservations. “Some of the people at these events inspire me in ways that reflect the images in my mind. I then draw sketches and arrange a composition for the painting.”

Nicholas’ medium is oil wash on canvas. The process first entails a light pencil drawing on the canvas and then the entire canvas is coated with a clear liquid oil. Oil paint thinned with medium is then applied to the canvas with a piece of foam rubber to create the background. The painting is allowed to dry overnight and the next day thin oil paint is used to paint the main figures. The entire process takes two to four days and no assistants or apprentices are used.

**About the Festival**

The Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival will feature the most talented artists from throughout the United States, Canada, Russia and Israel. This three day event will highlight amazing original paintings, small, medium and life-sized bronzes, fabulous raku pottery, sculptures of clay, copper, metal, stone and glass. Other works include magnificent batiks, photography, inlaid wood-turned bowls, sculptural jewelry and much more.

Along with this marvelous celebration of juried fine arts, there is live musical entertainment throughout the festival for patrons listening pleasure. Patrons can make a day of it by stopping in to see the wonderful boutiques, specialty shops, galleries, restaurants and outdoor cafes that are plentiful in Carefree’s lovely downtown area.

The festival will take place in downtown Carefree, near the famous Sundial, on the corner of Easy and Ho Hum streets. Hours are 10am to 5pm each day. Admission is free on Friday and \$2 on Saturday and Sunday. Carefree residents receive complimentary admission all three days. Parking is free all weekend. Additional information is available at [www.ThunderbirdArtists.com](http://www.ThunderbirdArtists.com)