



# Master Painter Kang Cho Comes Back Home

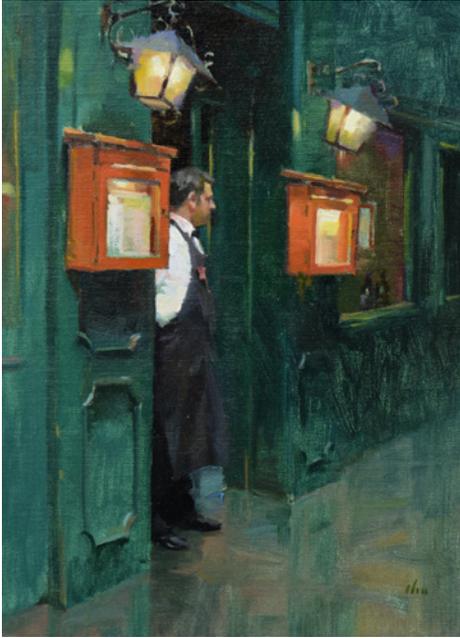
By **Carolyn Patten** Photos **Linda Carfagno**

Fresh from the American Academy of Art in Chicago, Korean-born Kang Cho first set foot in northern New Mexico in 1974, traveling to Santa Fe and Taos to paint. He says his classical training had emphasized the human form, but, “How could I not paint nature in this beautiful place?” Since those early days, he has returned to Santa Fe and Taos to paint his light-filled, exuberant landscapes — and figures — each year.

“I paint all subjects,” he says. “I paint what excites and what visually stimulates me in the moment. I don’t start out with a preconceived notion of what I should paint, but respond to what is in front of me.” He says his first sojourn in New Mexico introduced him to a group of artists who have become his colleagues and traveling companions over the years. Many of them, like him, settled in Denver, using that spot as a home base for painting trips that took them all

over the world and brought them back to New Mexico each fall, “With the golden light on the cottonwoods and the chamisa, and the smell of pinon smoke in the evening.”

Kang Cho, saying he favors “painting in my backyard,” has found several inspirational “backyards” throughout the world, citing Taos and Venice as the two locations that have been most fruitful. “I will stay for several months, get to know



Kang Cho

the place, and paint it like someone who really lives there.”

Over the years, Kang Cho’s oils and watercolors have won many awards, including the Elizabeth T. Greenshields Grant International Competition and the Anna Lee Stacey Scholarship Grant National Competition. His work has been featured in *Southwest Art*, *Art of the West*, *Western Art Digest*, *Business Week*, *Colorado Homes and Lifestyle*, the *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News*.

This year, he says he’s come full circle, returning to the spot that has served as an anchor for many years. Set up in an airy boutique gallery of his own on Paseo de Peralta and less than a mile from the Plaza, Kang Cho says he relishes being “back home” after living and painting in Venice, the Greek Islands and Nepal, as well as the Monterey/Big Sur area, Asheville, Charlotte, Savannah and the Outer Banks islands off the coast of North Carolina. “I’m really looking forward to painting in New Mexico again,” he says. “There is a universal quality of life here, and people leave you alone. It is perfect for the mature artist.”

Kang Cho also welcomes collectors to his studio, where he paints most days. In the early fall he will be announcing a grand opening event to show off the gallery as well as his oils and watercolors. ■

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**OPPOSITE** *Paul's in Paris*, 30 x 30, Oil on Linen **TOP RIGHT** *Opening Hour*, 15 x 11, Oil on Linen **TOP CENTER** *Girl in Purple*, 50 x 30, Oil on Linen **BOTTOM** *Sunlit Hollyhocks on Canyon Road*, 34 x 26, Oil on Linen