

Cami Thompson

The prestigious show “Best in the West”, Park City Utah, April 1998 featured many well known artists including Michael Coleman, Robert Bateman and Cami Thompson. The show was sponsored by Southwest Art Magazine and Meyer Gallery to benefit Vital Ground Foundation, a nonprofit conservation organization founded in 1991 dedicated to conserving habitat for grizzlies and all of the other plants and animals that share the land with the Great Bear. The foundation was started by Doug Seus who raised and trained Bart the Bear, a Kodiak bear, who became famous in movies including “The Edge” starring Anthony Hopkins and Alec Balwin.

Cami Thompson was commissioned by Colorado State University Veterinary School to paint Bart with his owner Doug Seus. The painting was presented to Doug the night of the show. He was very happy to see that this artist captured his bear so well including Bart’s protruding lip and huge size. Bart was diagnosed with un-curable cancer and his likeness lives on through the oil painting done by Cami.

