

Cami Thompson

ART-TALK Rising Star 2007

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Painter Cami Thompson grows her inspiration north of Taos, N.M. In her garden more than 300 blooms flourish at one time, mostly dahlias (unsold in stores), and Thompson composes her oil paintings from these beauties achieving rare colors.

The role of color is something Thompson started observing as child. "I would note as a kid that shadows looked more blue," says Thompson. "What light did to colors in the sky and land. (As an adult), when I went to Alaska, I was overwhelmed by the brilliant blues and greens."

The secret to her unique color schemes is her use of a yellow combination "that no one else is using," says Thompson. It makes developing prints of her work very tricky. She is adamant to stay true to her color schemes since it is her life's study.

Starting as an illustrator out of school, and then working into needlepoint art, Thompson became a full-time painter in 1992 in Boulder, Colo. Then she and her husband moved five years ago to New Mexico for its inspiring vistas.

"The color and light are different here," says Thompson. "The land and sky reflect each other. What is cobalt blue in Colorado, is turquoise here. It's interesting. The light is so clean. The New Mexico sky is hard to beat."

Painting in her studio during the morning hours, Thompson paints throughout the seasons doing landscapes and florals.

She says the seasonal light changes are reflected in the flower's hues. "I have excellent light in my studio," says Thompson. "A painting done in winter takes on the colors of the season. A flower painting in January has a different color balance than a floral painting in July." ■



Dahlia Hiatus (oil on canvas, 40" x 40") by Cami Thompson. (courtesy San Taos Gallery)

