

presented itself as something special. "I love to drive around and find inspiration, and I was on a mission that day to find something to paint," she recalls. "A lot of times I find the right subject but I have to change the background. This one was perfect, with a dream background." She says the sky was essentially as depicted, with minor editing necessary. Marquis was particularly pleased with how the clouds delivered broken shadows to the background hills, which she says anyone in the Bozeman area would immediately recognize as the Bridger Mountains.

The artist recalls her work on the foreground grass, which added much of the painting's depth. "I kept making the high-lights lighter and lighter and they kept popping and coming farther forward," she says. "I also made them four or five times larger than the grass in the middle ground. The most enjoyable part of painting is seeing things start to have depth as you play with light and color and brightness. It's like magic."

Sunset Bliss

2009, acrylic,
20 x 16. Private
collection.

Marquis trained at the School of The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and at the University of Arizona, in Tucson, where she was a graphic design major, "but that didn't cut it for me," she says. "I needed to paint." She spent a decade painting murals and applying faux finishes to houses and businesses in New Hampshire before relocating to the Big Sky Country. Marquis was well established on the East Coast, but starting over in Montana has been worth it. "It's an awesome place for an artist," she says.

For more information, visit www.wendymarquis.com.

