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# ING



## LOCAL FOLKUS

# David Castle



Having a midlife crisis? Check out David Castle, who quit his high-tech day job to pursue his art and ended up happy and successful. His piece "Elementals No. 18" was selected for the prestigious 2007 Rocky Mountain National Watermedia (RMNW) Exhibition, which runs from September 8 through November 4 at the Foothills Art Center in Golden. His gorgeous paintings are best viewed in color, so to get the full effect, as well as find out where to see his art, go to his Web site at [www.DavidCastleArt.com](http://www.DavidCastleArt.com).

### What is watermedia and how is a piece is created?

Watermedia generally means media (paints) that are waterbased and soluble, as opposed to oil-based paints. I describe my work as watermedia because I use more than just watercolor paints in much of my art. While most of my art is created with watercolors, I also use gouache, water soluble pigments and acrylic paints. I create my paintings on paper, working on a flat table surface rather than an upright easel. My own techniques that I've developed over time usually involve many layers of paint (sometimes over 10!), with each layer drying in between. I paint with a variety of watercolor and gouache paints and soluble pigments, including some really unique metallic paints. Most of my work is then sealed with an archival spray varnish and mounted on stretched canvas that I've embellished with acrylic paint. I've developed my own method for mounting my paintings this way as an alternative to traditional framing under glass. This gives my art a more raw finish and allows people to get up close and personal with my art.

### What is the RMNW Exhibition and why being selected for it is so important?

First of all, I'm a big fan of the Foothills Art Center, where the RMNW Exhibition is held each year. Foothills is a really unique venue and I love their mission, exhibits and educational and community programs. I think the RMNW Exhibition is one of the top juried watermedia exhibitions in the country and certainly in Colorado. I've been submitting my best paintings for the last several years to be juried and was thrilled when this year's juror, Carla O'Connor, selected my "Elementals No. 18." Carla is an international watermedia artist whose work I really admire - I'm honored that she selected my painting as one of the 69 she chose out of over 780 entries. Opening night is on Friday, September 14, from 5:30-8 p.m. and we'll find out then if Carla also selected my painting for one of the awards!

### You will also be doing some demonstrations there. Can you tell us a little about that?

Several artists with paintings in the exhibition, including me, will be onsite at Foothills Art Center demonstrating our painting process on October 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. I love demonstrating my unique painting process and style and am glad the Foothills Art Center organizes an artist demo day as part of the exhibition. This is a great opportunity for the public to see artists in action and ask questions while the artists work.

### Why did you decide to drop out of the world of technology?

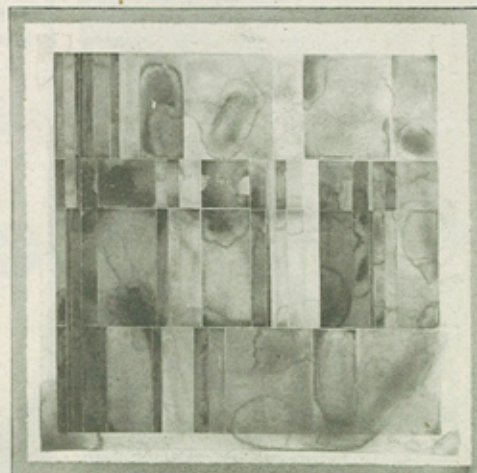
I've had some pretty exciting opportunities while working in the technology field - I've traveled a lot, lived in Europe for several years and gained a wide range of experiences. When I turned 30, though, I knew the romance was no longer there for me - technology as a career and the corporate environment increasingly seemed to stifle my creativity. ... I work harder now than I ever have, but my career change and doing something I really love has been one of the best things to ever happen to me.

### Do you have any advice for other artists who might dream of quitting their day job to pursue their art full-time?

Like any career, I think goals, especially in business terms, are critical for success. ... I've found it is really important to be able to balance my creative process with my business and marketing activities. So I'd say goals for your art and business are key to starting out. Expect to work hard to achieve your goals, but look forward to being fueled by doing something you love.

### What else would you like to say?

I really encourage folks to visit the RMNW Exhibition this year. The Foothills Art Center does a great job of hosting this annual exhibit and it's a chance to view some of the best watermedia art in the country right here in Colorado. Plus it will get people out of downtown to experience something different - Golden has turned into quite a happening place! Could I also thank my partner Steve? I can't imagine doing what I'm doing without his love and support!



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