

McLARRY Fine Art  
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## BRAD ALDRIDGE

### Spirit of the land

In his upcoming show at McLarry Fine Art, Brad Aldridge will unveil his largest painting to date, *The End of the Day*, measuring 60 by 99 inches. This is among his latest series of landscape works in oil that evoke a spiritual conversation between the viewer, the land and the paintings.

About taking on the challenge of painting *The End of the Day*, based on Amish Country in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Aldridge says, "I have the space, I have the imagery that was exciting to me and decided it was time to give it a shot. I like to mix things up, I like change. With a large painting like this, there

is a lot more to sink your teeth into in terms of variety, marks and tools, and allows me to really zero-in on every area."

Ever the "hopeful" artist, Aldridge wants his works to convey optimism and peace.

"I have a hopeful personality and want that trait to be discernable to those who see my paintings. I think landscape is as good a vehicle as any to portray hope; after all, spring follows winter, dawn follows night," says Aldridge.

Aldridge continues to be drawn to the idea of the spiritual subtext of nature. His works translate this spirituality without the need to incorporate figures or religious icons.

"Why not have the landscape itself tell an uplifting story? By taking a landscape image, which can have a mundane connotation, and putting it in a different context, hopefully people will take a second look and wonder why I'm presenting it with a spiritual undertone," he says.

For his recent works, Aldridge has expanded his horizons, literally. Taking in more vistas, he has taken to the tops of hills and peaks to gain a new vantage point. This changes not only the scene, but the mood of the piece.

"In the last few years I've been intrigued with overlooking vistas. I like that sort of



THE END OF THE DAY, OIL ON CANVAS, 60 X 99"



BANK WITH FLOWING SPRING (TRIPTYCH), OIL ON PANELS, 39½ X 12" (SIDE PANELS), 46 X 27" (CENTER PANEL)



VALLEY ROAD, OIL ON PANEL, 30 X 40"

heroic aspect of nature, where you're hovering above," he says. "I'm still enamored with water, the contrast of dusk or dawn; I draw a lot of metaphors from the setting or rising sun or flowing water."

His focus on water has increased recently, giving rise to a new approach to painting it.

"I like seeing creeks or streams winding back into the distance, creating the illusion of space and depth. Now, I'm trying to get more specific in water paintings, focusing more on the ebbs and currents of flowing water," he says.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Aldridge continues to challenge himself as an artist.

"Collectors should see a natural progression—I'm always reaching," he says. "You can't get complacent or lazy in mark-making, but rather stay engaged and focused, paying attention to every square inch of the paintings." ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to

[www.americanartcollector.com](http://www.americanartcollector.com)