

Poulsen's artwork seen worldwide

Your profession is not what brings home your paycheck; it's what you were put on the earth to do with such passion and intensity that it becomes spiritual in your nature or your calling."

Those words of Vincent Van Gogh flow easily from Mike Poulsen, a Marine Corps veteran, former outfitter and guide, and long-time artist. Throughout his 52 years, Poulsen has learned much about passion and intensity – both in real life and the art it inspires.

One of eight children, the Ohio native always loved to draw.

"It was something quiet I could do," he says.

Poulsen still loves to draw and is now teaching others the subtleties and expressions of painting. He has again started teaching his winter art classes at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

"I truly enjoy working with others and sharing what I know," he adds.

Through the years Mike's students have been inspired enough to embark on their own careers in art, entering shows and winning awards.

"I love seeing my students succeed," Mike adds. "Everyone has their own style and nuances as they interpret what they see. It's inspiring."

Last year was exciting for Poulsen. He and wife Shauna traveled to Washington, D.C., in September 2004 for the opening of the Smithsonian's Native American Museum where Mike's painting of Sen. Ben Nighthorse

Poulsen Studios Inc.

Mike and Shauna Poulsen,
owners
2319 Larkspur Ct.
587-6862
Fax: 527-6611
E-mail: Poulsen@starband.net
Web: www.wtp.net/Poulsen

Campbell is on exhibit. That friendship spans more than 20 years.

"It was a fabulous experience," Mike said. "It was so fun to stand back and listen to comments about the painting and watch people taking their photos along side it, not realizing the artist was right there."

The receptions and gala events that accompanied the opening made for a memorable trip and the Poulsons returned home with many new friends.

As Mike moves forward into the new year he's staying busy. He and Shauna attended the Autry National Museum Show in Los Angeles in February. March found them in Scottsdale, Ariz., setting up a show in a new gallery.

He's been invited to be a guest



Mike Poulsen stands by his portrait "Ben Nighthorse-Cheyenne" of former Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a painting that took six months. The portrait was displayed in the new National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

speaker at the Booth Museum in Cartersville, Ga., where a number of his paintings are on exhibit. Mike also has been commissioned to do a life size portrait of heart surgeon Lenox Baker, M.D., for the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Mike does about five museum shows annually, has his work in many private collections and has been invited to far-flung places such as England and Russia.

But his heart still belongs to Cody, his family and a simple life.