

Marion R. Hyde

1938 - 2025

Marion Roundy Hyde was born the son of Tremonton's town Marshall, August 26, 1938. Soon after his father was elected Box Elder County sheriff and they moved to the County seat, Brigham City, UT.

Sheriff Hyde had a small ranch at the edge of town where he raised quarter horses, sheep, chickens, and had the occasional milk cow. As would be expected of rancher's children, Marion Hyde learned the art of grooming and showing horses and sheep, and how to milk cows. He also worked cattle in Western Box Elder County and jockeyed racehorses at county fairs.

A college education, career in History or Art were never topics of conversation, in the Hyde home simply because they were outside their purview, and yet... at Box Elder High School, a love for these things developed. Hyde believed that he may have taken a different path if not for the inspired teaching of Don A. Olsen (1910-1983) in History and J. Earl Johnston in Music, who instilled a desire to learn and understand. Having also excelled in sports provided Hyde with an athletic scholarship to play football and attend Utah State University.

During his sophomore year a fraternity brother cajoled him into taking an art class. At the time he wasn't aware that there was such a department on campus. Upon entering the course Hyde was exposed to a exhilarating atmosphere, a world never imagined. The. New approaches for observing, analyzing and responding to life experiences were supported and cultivated. Professor Harrison Groutage recognized Hyde's potential and encouraged him to continue his art studies and to eventually become an art major. During this time, he had the good fortune of studying with three prominent Utah artists Harrison Groutage his mentor, Ev Thorpe, and Gaell Lindstrom. He graduated from USU with a BS (1962), and a MFA in 1969.

In February of his senior year at Utah State University he received a call from his old high school principal. Their art teacher had resigned, and the program was in chaos. Hyde was offered the position to finish the school year. He accepted finding the undertaking rewarding and successful. The seeds for a career in teaching and making art had irrevocably been sown.

Marion Hyde continued teaching at Box Elder High for the next seven years while completing a Master of Fine Arts Degree. As would happen, just as he finished his MFA, a teaching position opened in USU's art department. He taught painting, drawing, printmaking, and art education courses for 35 years. Taking along his young family, he led two groups of students to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico (Spring 1971, Spring 1973), as part of the Art Department's sponsored Spring Quarter in Mexico program. He was the Department Head for 12 years (1984-1996) and retired as Professor Emeritus in 2002.

His art hangs in many public and private collections in the United States. He also received numerous awards in national, regional and local art competitions. Hyde was passionate about interpreting the Utah landscape in his paintings, drawings, and prints.

Statement:

Marion R. Hyde (d. 2025) was a beloved Professor of Art at Utah State University for over three decades. Upon retirement in 2002, he found renewed focus, prolifically producing the bulk of his career's work while channeling Edmund Burke's concepts from "Sublime and Beautiful", published in 1756, into his evocative Utah landscapes. His intricately balanced works, rich with color and form, capture the wild, uncertain beauty of nature, creating a deep visual tension and metaphor for its enduring mystery, even as they explore peaceful lyrical elements alongside the untamed.