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A World of Birds

Artist Anne Peyton's lifelong interest in birds has helped her create a diverse and focused body of work.

Since age 3 Anne Peyton has had a fascination with birds, and as soon as she could draw they became her subjects. Growing up in Northern Colorado she would feed ducks at the park and watch cardinals and orioles in her grandfather's yard. It was the sheer entertainment of watching them that intrigued her. While she had a 20-year stint as a sought-after motorsports painter, today Peyton mainly focuses on birds of prey but also paints others such as spoonbills and swans.

"All the birds that I paint are subjects that my husband and I go out and find, so they're all birds in their natural settings, and I like the detail of things, so the anatomy is an important part of everything to me," says Peyton. "I also like with the acrylics that they have nice hard edges, so it's a great medium for negative spaces and solid backgrounds. I don't always put a background in."

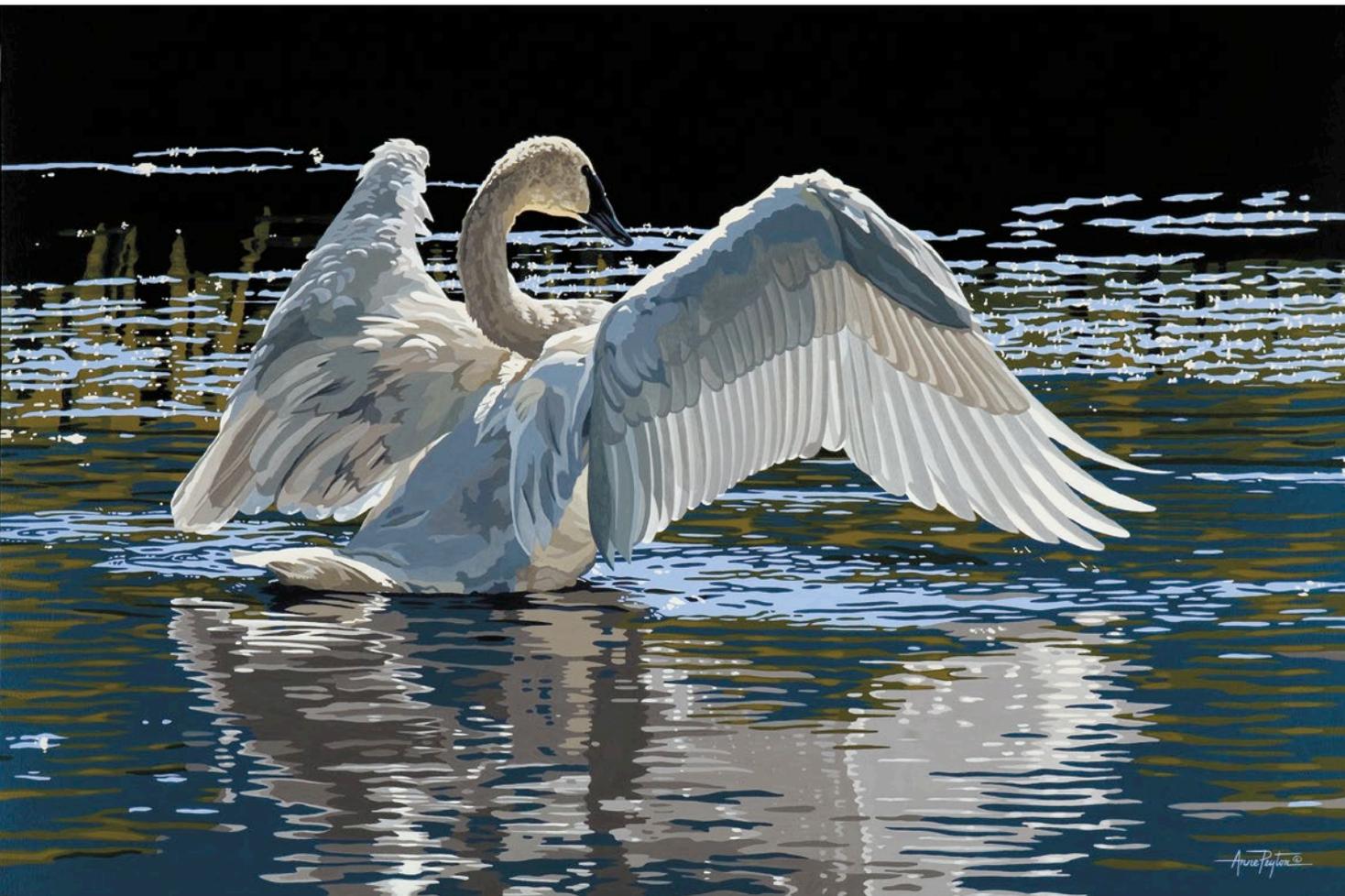
To gather material for her work, Peyton and her husband often travel into the field. There, information is gathered through photographs, color and behavioral notes, and looking at the species close-up with binoculars. All of the components together help build the composition for Peyton who notes, "I remember what photos might not remember for me."

Peyton also tries to bring the uniqueness and beauty of each bird closer to her viewers so they can have an emotional connection with the animals.

"I like to leave these birds for people to look at and maybe they'll become curious about them—they might find out that they virtually live in their backyard and they just haven't taken the time to look," Peyton explains. "I'm trying to have people see the beauty of nature and the beauty of the birds that live there and maybe people will become interested and search them out and spend time outside and want to know more about them." ●



Peyton was the Second Prize Winner of International Artist magazine's Challenge No. 83, Wildlife.



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- 1**
In Perfect Balance
(roseate spoonbill),
acrylic, 20 x 15"
- 2**
Morning Glory
(trumpeter swan),
acrylic, 20 x 30".
This piece received
Second Prize in
International Artist
magazine's Challenge
No. 83, Wildlife.
- 3**
Antelope Island Beauty
(American avocet),
acrylic, 20 x 15"
- 4**
On His Territory
(red-winged
blackbird),
acrylic, 18 x 13"