

located in a downtown Calgary loft, Paul's living and work spaces are artfully blended together. He surrounds himself with much of his own work and the work of other artists he admires, as well as masks, American Indian artifacts, antique Mexican saddles and crosses from all over the world. His floor-to-ceiling salon-style environment is designed to provide stimulation and inspiration.

Paul attacks the canvas with passion, standing up and pacing back and forth as he paints. He enjoys the process of creating as much as the satisfaction he derives from signing his name to a completed piece.

"The way I paint is very intense and I'm acutely aware of what I'm doing," Paul says. "If I happen to paint something quite beautiful in the moment, I consciously leave that alone as opposed to obviously painting over it."

In his work he strives to express his commitment to the subject, and as a result, his paintings pulse with energy and emotion. With his aggressive and loose painting style, Paul creates mood and movement, and his expressive paintings command acknowledgement of their presence.

"I'd like to think my work jumps off the wall as opposed to just sort of blending in as decoration," Paul says. "I chose my style to be aggressive so that when one walks into the room they'll notice the painting and feel the energy of the brush strokes."

His larger-than-life pieces, averaging around 40 by 60 inches, frequently crop in tightly on the subject. Using large brushes to apply liberal amounts of paint, Paul creates pattern and rhythm. His use of lighting glistens off velvety horseflesh, luring the viewer back

for yet another look. Once he's captured viewers' attention, Paul hopes they'll appreciate the subtle details and composition of each piece. He's quick to note, though, that he doesn't get caught up in the details of realism. Instead, his style captures the sensation of the moment, dancing around the details.

"I want the viewer's experience to be very satisfying," Paul says, "and not to end there. An aggressive and loose painting usually changes and grows with the owner.

"And, I want the viewer to get a sense of who I am through the painting," Paul continues.

A romantic, Paul thinks about the potential future of each painting. "When someone has a painting, it's just for their lifetime, then it gets passed on," Paul says. "Because I'm responsible for giving birth to these paintings, naturally I'm emotionally attached to their futures."

#### REFLECTING SOULS

"I think the way an artist paints is a reflection of their personality and who they are," Paul says. Whether it's the nobleness of a venerable American Indian chief, the quiet pride of a lone cowboy moving his herd, the velvety softness of the herd itself — or even the expressive movement of a dancer — Paul's soul is indeed revealed. Sometimes it peeks from the canvas as if just a whisper; other times it commands to be noticed through bold simplicity and elegance. And for those who admire Paul's work, they may just find reflections of themselves hidden among the brush strokes. 🐾



"Lunch Time," oil 36" x 72"