

A Tribute To Eldridge Hardie

For the sporting art collector who is deeply enriched by his days in the field or on the water, authenticity of mood and action in a painting is paramount. Eldridge Hardie, who died on August 11, 2021, at the age of 81, combined his artistic ability with his personal bird-hunting and fly-fishing passions to make iconic sporting moments live in his pictures.

Hardie was born on a small ranch near Boerne, Texas, in 1940, and grew up in El Paso. He was inspired to pursue art at an early age by watching his uncle, a professional illustrator from New York, paint from the family's home during a visit.

Encouraged by El Paso's Tom Lea, a well-known painter, author, and family friend, Hardie attended Washington University School of Fine Art in Saint Louis, where he graduated first in his class with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1964. Hardie

relocated to Colorado, where he would spend his adult life pursuing his outdoor passions and his career in art.

He carried on the special heritage of artists Winslow Homer, A. B. Frost, Ogden Pleissner, Frank Benson, and A. Lassell Ripley, who intimately knew outdoor sport. Of his work, Hardie said that the subject was the look and not the story. He refrained from saying very much about his painting, stating rather, "I think it's best for the viewers to receive my thoughts by looking carefully at the work."

In summing up his decades' long career Hardie said, "I was

born to hunt, fish, and make art about these passions." How fortunate we all are that he brought his reverence for natural beauty and his passion for sport to fine art. Hardie's paintings will evoke the pleasure of the sporting experience for years to come.

~ The Hardie Family

