

## UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 30 works  
July 5-28, 2019

Manitou Galleries  
123 W. Palace Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 986-0440  
www.manitougalleries.com

SHOW LOCATION SANTA FE, NM



# BC NOWLIN

## Forged from light

**B**C Nowlin's artwork is shrouded in mystery, fueled by a pure, childlike imagination. He never works from photographs or even sketches, so his stunning scenes are the direct result of his own ideas, experiences and serendipitous inspirations. He grew up in the Santa Fe area, his home on the edge of the Sandia Pueblo Reservation, a place laced with culture and history. "I ran track with the Native kids, I hunted the Native way...so it was certainly multi-cultural," Nowlin says. "There's a powerful magic to New Mexico. You paint with bones under your feet and it grounds you. You're in touch with a bigger life than your own."

The artist, who currently lives in Corrales, New Mexico, with a studio in Alameda, says he isn't a regionalist, though. He doesn't wear cowboy hats and he doesn't adopt the distinctive Western aesthetic in his personal appearance. Nowlin's vivid, mystical paintings have been seen across the world from the United States to Europe to Japan, and there's simply something about his style that captures audiences on a universal scale. His art, he explains, is about humanity first and foremost. While they often depict Western scenes, they aren't "Western" paintings. He adds, "I don't want to paint stories that everybody knows, I don't even want to paint stories I know. I paint mystery." Nowlin's art is meant for everyone.

While his works used to be much darker—he started working in oils at age 12 and loved using Prussian blue—his palette has gotten warmer and brighter over the years. Depicting everything from "highways, old motels, ancient cities [and] burning trucks on the edge of the highway because I feel like it," his use of reds, oranges and golds packs a powerful punch. He explains that he always uses pure pigments, starting with a "blast of light and color," then works his way out from there, gradually creating definition and detail. "I want colors that sizzle in the darkness and kind of glow at you," Nowlin says.



*Meaning This*, oil on canvas, 48 x 36"

Indeed, his paintings do seem to glow, as seen in the lower center of *Meaning This*, in which a tribe moves toward a flurry of colorful speckles of light that seem to drift into the night sky.

"I think I'm an optimist generally," the artist reflects on the piece. "I've always had this vague, naive assumption that everything's going to turn out great eventually. I just believe in life."



*Experience*, oil on canvas, 48 x 60"




*Entering*, oil on canvas, 36 x 24"



*Seeing*, oil on canvas, 24 x 48"

In the distance in most of my paintings, there's always a glow...Head toward the light, that's just my childhood optimism, really."

This year marks 30 years that Nowlin has been exhibiting at 123 West Palace Avenue in Santa Fe, with Manitou Galleries having taken over the space in 2001. From July 5 to 28, the gallery hosts an exhibition celebrating three decades of Nowlin's imagination and creativity rooted in the Land of Enchantment. An opening reception will be held on July 5 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. 🍷

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to 

[www.westernartcollector.com](http://www.westernartcollector.com)

*"BC Nowlin's work forces the viewer to become the participant. He draws us in with color and depth and as we approach the piece ever slowly, we realize we have become a part of his purpose."*

— Cyndi Hall, associate director, Manitou Galleries