



# Darren Haley *2010 Artist of the Year*

**Born in 1960, Calgary artist Darren Haley spends hours** observing the habitat and behaviour of his wildlife subjects. This commitment to capturing wildlife in its natural state is apparent in the fine details of his incredibly realistic creations.

Haley's *The New West* was selected to join Ducks Unlimited Canada's (DUC) 2010 National Art Portfolio and he was named DUC's Artist of the Year. This limited edition series is available only through DUC fundraising initiatives. The money raised through this program supports DUC's *Wetlands for Tomorrow* campaign.

*Wetlands for Tomorrow* is the largest conservation fundraising campaign in the history of North America. It spans three countries as DUC works alongside Ducks Unlimited, Inc. in the United States and Ducks Unlimited Mexico to conserve wetlands for waterfowl, other wildlife and people.



### **The Inspiration for *The New West***

When Haley was photographing background material near the Saskatchewan border and the seventh baseline in Alberta, he came across an abandoned farmstead that inspired his painting. Although the area was devoid of people, it was teeming with wildlife.

"There were swallows in the house, a pair of skunks under the house and a great horned owl in the barn," Haley says. "The title 'The New West' came from the fact that when people leave, wildlife moves in. The ferruginous hawk, once threatened, is also making a comeback in the area."

Haley recreated the scene with this spectacular hawk as the focal point in this classic prairie painting.

### **Additional work by Darren Haley**

This is the third time Darren Haley has been selected as DUC's Artist of the Year. Last year, he was chosen for his piece *Alpine Hunter* and again in 2000 for *Ladies First*. Many more of his prints, including *Soft Shadows*, *Passing 60*, *Full House*, *The Stunning Rock*, *Jewel* and *Parkland Winter*, have been recognized in previous DUC National Art Portfolios.



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