

## After The Blizzard (1988)

By Walt Wright

This was one of those paintings that began with an idea or image in my head. While at a festival show I had another artist look my work over and asked, "Where is this place?" I answered that it was just an image that came to mind and I painted it. "You've got to see it to paint it!" she said quite sternly to me. My father was nearby and out of the corner of my eye I saw him look in my direction. I knew he was waiting to see how I would respond to this rude lady. Good manners were expected of me, it was how I was raised. Not to mention, good manners are a pre-requisite for Southern Gentlemen. He knew quite well that I could create scenes without a reference; he often called it my "third" eye. Anyway, I just smiled and replied, "Okay, if you say so.... but I did." Obviously the woman knew nothing about the expanded creativity of surrealist artists, so I knew better than to debate with her. "You had to have had a reference." She continued. By this point my dad was at full attention. I smiled again and replied, "Okay, I admit it. I saw it with my third eye and I painted it." As she rolled her eyes and walked away my Dad burst into laughter. So, just for future reference... creative artists have a third eye. We don't need to physically see it, in order to paint it.

