

# A soft spot for his 'girls'

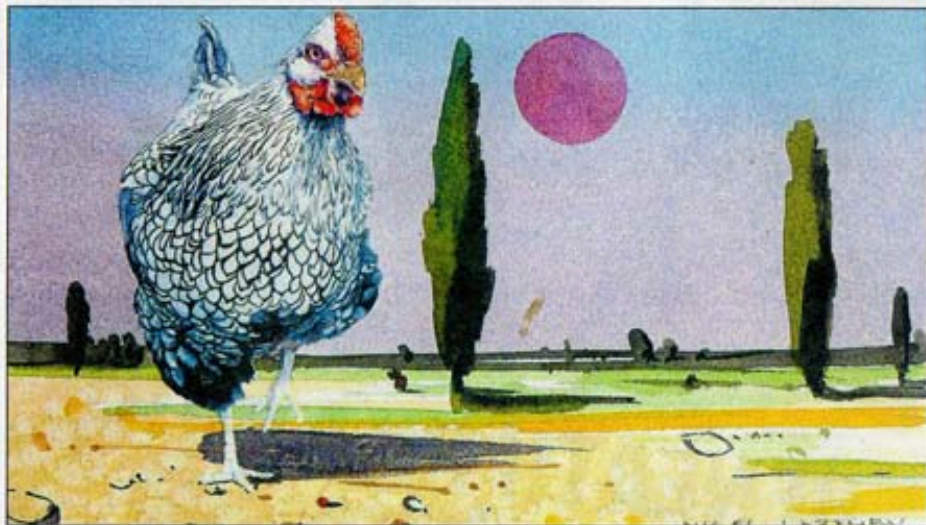


## MY GIRLS AND OTHER THINGS Paintings by Nigel Lazenby

LAZENBY'S skill as a competent and imaginative watercolourist is well-known and admired.

His thematic approach has realised a variety of subjects over the years and his latest collection of work at the newly built Scottsdale Art and Framing Gallery is sure to delight and entertain not only lovers of art but, those who have a soft spot for chickens, or "girls" as Lazenby fondly calls them.

Lazenby's larger paintings are quite imposing. The hens featured take on poses reminiscent of dinosaurs



*Hen and Conifers, by Nigel Lazenby.*

roaming the earth in ancient times.

The birds have a sculptural look and each face reveals an individual character that demands the attention of the onlooker. What are the birds thinking? Rocks and eggs are strewn about in several paintings. Leaves are scattered and also appear as decorations in a group of four paintings titled *A Special Gift*.

Many of the compositions contain large areas of sky, often abstract, and this "neutrality" adds to the regal nature of the hens.

Areas of understating work well where they have been employed.

*The Escape*, is a well-constructed painting that captures a hen in its first moments of freedom.

The background is

tempting the hen to flee its coop and explore the "new" world, but is there a sense of hesitation in its face?

Lazenby's smaller paintings are a visual treat. *Hen And Conifers 1*, is beautifully composed with the subject's glare and intent wonderfully captured.

Unlike most of the paintings on display, the landscape objects compete

“The birds have a sculptural look and each face reveals an individual character”

with the subject, but this gives the composition a complimentary three-dimensional feel.

Besides watercolours, Lazenby has included three examples of his "Leaf" series, two of which feature subtle imprints of hens. *Leaf Over the Tamar* contains a beautifully crafted hen set within a delicate relief study.

A limited edition print is also on sale featuring Lazenby's "girls". Two oils on canvas complete the exhibition and feature elements from the collection of watercolours. Are they a hint of a change in direction for Lazenby?

This exhibition is well worth the trip to Scottsdale. Open daily until May 31.