

As seen in the  
October 2011 issue of

**WESTERN ART**  
COLLECTOR



# On the Edge

In the Spotlight: Mark Eberhard's *On the Edge* exhibition features diverse avian artwork at the National Museum of Wildlife Art.

By Adam Duncan Harris, Curator of Art at the National Museum of Wildlife Art

**M**ark Eberhard's painting *On the Edge* features six birds that are on the edge, both on the edge of the canvas and on the brink of extinction, if not assumed extinct already.


Eberhard wrote of his piece:

Unbroken expanses of forests and wetlands have been fractured by housing developments, shopping centers, freeways', and golf courses. This has led to drastic declines in bird populations that depend on uninterrupted tracts of habitat. In North America alone, 33 bird species have been driven to extinction and over 150 are now in danger. Birds 'on the

edge' include (clockwise from top right) the Florida scrub-jay, Kirtland's warbler, ivory-billed woodpecker, brown pelican, nene, and northern spotted owl.

*On the Edge* is made even more poignant by the inclusion of a line from Wallace Stevens' poem, *Sunday Morning*: "But when the birds are gone, and their warm fields return no more, where then is paradise?"

In the Spotlight: Mark Eberhard's *On the Edge* is the third in a series of annual exhibitions that contextualize a recent acquisition within the larger framework of the museum's permanent collection. Showing the work of an artist's predecessors and

contemporaries allows visitors to see how other artists have tackled similar subject matter. Some may work more realistically, some in a more stylized fashion; some are overtly political, some are more interested in the pure aesthetics of nature. Highlighting a work of art amidst other pieces from the collection helps visitors see how that work fits within the greater scope of the museum's collections and within the greater world of wildlife art. Scheduled to appear in the gallery with *On the Edge* are historic pieces by John James Audubon, Paul Jouve, Jessie Arms Botke and Andy Warhol, in addition to work by contemporary artists Ray Harris-Ching and Tom Palmore. 




**Paul Jouve (France, 1878-1973), *Eagle and its Prey*, 1923, oil and India ink on paper, 36 $\frac{5}{8}$  x 26"**  
JKM COLLECTION©, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WILDLIFE ART



**Mark Eberhard (United States, b. 1949), *On the Edge*, 2008, oil on canvas, 60 x 60"**  
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**In the Spotlight: Mark Eberhard's *On the Edge***



**When:** October 22, 2011-April 22, 2012  
**Where:** National Museum of Wildlife Art, Kuhn Gallery, 2820 Rungius Road, Jackson, WY 83001  
**Information:** (307) 733-5771, [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org)



Above:  
**Raymond Harris-Ching (New Zealand, b. 1939),**  
*Eider Pair*, 1995-1998,  
 oil on canvas, 36 x 42"  
 JKM COLLECTION®, NATIONAL  
 MUSEUM OF WILDLIFE ART.  
 ©RAYMOND HARRIS-CHING

Left:  
**Mark Eberhard,**  
*Ring Bill Gull*, n.d.,  
 oil on board, 20 x 20"  
 GIFT OF LYNN AND FOSTER FRIESS,  
 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WILDLIFE ART.  
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