

**DAVID MAESTAS**  
SLCAge  
34**Shows at: Palmers Gallery,  
Utah Artist Hands, SLC**

His brother's untimely death from bone marrow cancer in 2002 was the catalyst for David Maestas' leap of faith onto the Utah art scene. "He told me that if I had any dreams, I needed to make them happen," he says. Maestas submitted his work for inclusion in the Park City Art Festival just months after his brother died. "I still wasn't sure if I'd have the chops for that show, but I just got my stuff together and left it up to the people to decide," Maestas says. Not only did the curators of the festival like his work, but he sold 15 pieces; quite an accomplishment for a freshman artist.

Maestas grew up excelling in art and went on to study at the University of Utah and the College of Eastern Utah, but struggled with the academic notions of being an artist, and didn't graduate. Landscapes were his first subject, but over the last several years, Maestas has turned to his Apache and Spanish roots to inform his abstract style. "My roots are very important to me, something very special I can share with the world. I'm very grateful I have something else to say other than just talking about the landscape," he says.

Maestas' paintings are lustrous, with an uncommon depth. Paintings like "Mestizo" and "Indio Vision" glow from within, seeming to demonstrate a connection between the earth, the present and a higher power.

Maestas' work will be featured at the Sedona Arts Festival in October in Arizona.

