

A COMMISSION STORY

ARTIST: David Castle, see page 219

ARTWORK TITLE: *Nine Jewels*

SITE: Wide Open West Corporate Headquarters, Englewood, CO

Sometimes a single commission can lead to more than an artist ever thought possible. Case in point, painter David Castle, who impressed a visitor to his booth at a local Denver art festival. That visitor turned out to be an executive at Englewood's local cable and Internet service provider, Wide Open West. He, in turn, recommended Castle's work to other executives in the company, and many commissions were born.

But it wasn't until Castle visited the Wide Open West (WOW) headquarters, that anyone thought to commission one of his pieces for the office. "The space was really nice, very contemporary, but I couldn't help but notice that there

wasn't any artwork," he explains. Castle brought in his portfolio, and the company agreed to commission a piece in his Jewel series, in blue and purple tones. The executives and Castle talked (and joked) about how the piece should have a "wow" effect on their visitors and employees.

The final piece does just that. "It's a strong piece, but the colors are simultaneously calming, which is a great introduction to the company," Castle notes. "It's also unusual because it's very large for a watercolor piece, and it complements the contemporary design of the space."

One thing that surprised Castle about the project was a visit to his studio by one of WOW's executives. "I didn't go into this project thinking that someone from the company would come to the studio, but I think that really helped familiarize them with my work and allowed them to be a more informed part of the commission process."

