



In 1968 Wendell began painting in oils. From there he continued his study of nature, who Wendell considers "the ultimate teacher." By 1970 he was doing paintings in a realist style that were good enough to win awards in competition with unhandicapped artists. Since that first triumph over unrelenting paralysis, he has continued to improve his skill and widen his horizons. His goal is simple: to make each painting the best yet.

Wendell's home is in Mapleton, Utah, where he has lived his entire life. He works from a hospital bed with a desk his father designed and built specifically for that purpose. A completed painting often takes anywhere from eight months to over one year to complete because as Wendell puts it, "I'm a slow, methodical painter . . . I like quality not quantity or recipe painting . . . I also like detail, I am almost obsessed with it . . . God placed the most beauty in the smallest details."

In 30 years as an artist, Wendell has painted landscapes, portraits, and still lifes. As the years went by, his efforts turned more toward Western traditional painting. He comes by it naturally, not only because he lives in the West, but he also comes by it because of his heritage – his ancestors were pioneers and home-steaders during the 1850's. The same spirit and determination that brought them to this land over a hundred years ago made Wendell B. Johnson the artist he was.