



Stewart's feeling for the religious aspects of his art has influenced his style and approach to various media. Murals for temples and chapels, illustrations for church books and magazines, and rural and urban landscape painting are all related in a lifelong work that reflects a deep personal commitment to esthetics and religion. Stewart comments:

The story of Joseph Smith's first vision is so convincing that no one can deny it. He was only a boy, and yet the creative spirit worked upon him. . . . In painting nature and through study I feel that I can extract the spiritual qualities the Creator put there.

When I look at a tree and its growth, I immediately become aware of how the Lord created it and made it live. I am amazed how trees lose their leaves every winter and bloom forth every spring. The creative power to do that is marvelous — it is beyond my comprehension, and I tell you I respect it and those who created what we have here. Those are only a few of the great achievements. The Lord is so far beyond us in his understanding and use of creative ability that I bow down in humility because I am nothing. But somehow I have this bug to paint it. When I want to express it, it is that religious feeling that inspires me to paint it (as quoted by Davis, p. 34).

ART CREDITS

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Cover: "Fall Woods," 30"×22", oil on canvas panel, c1950

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