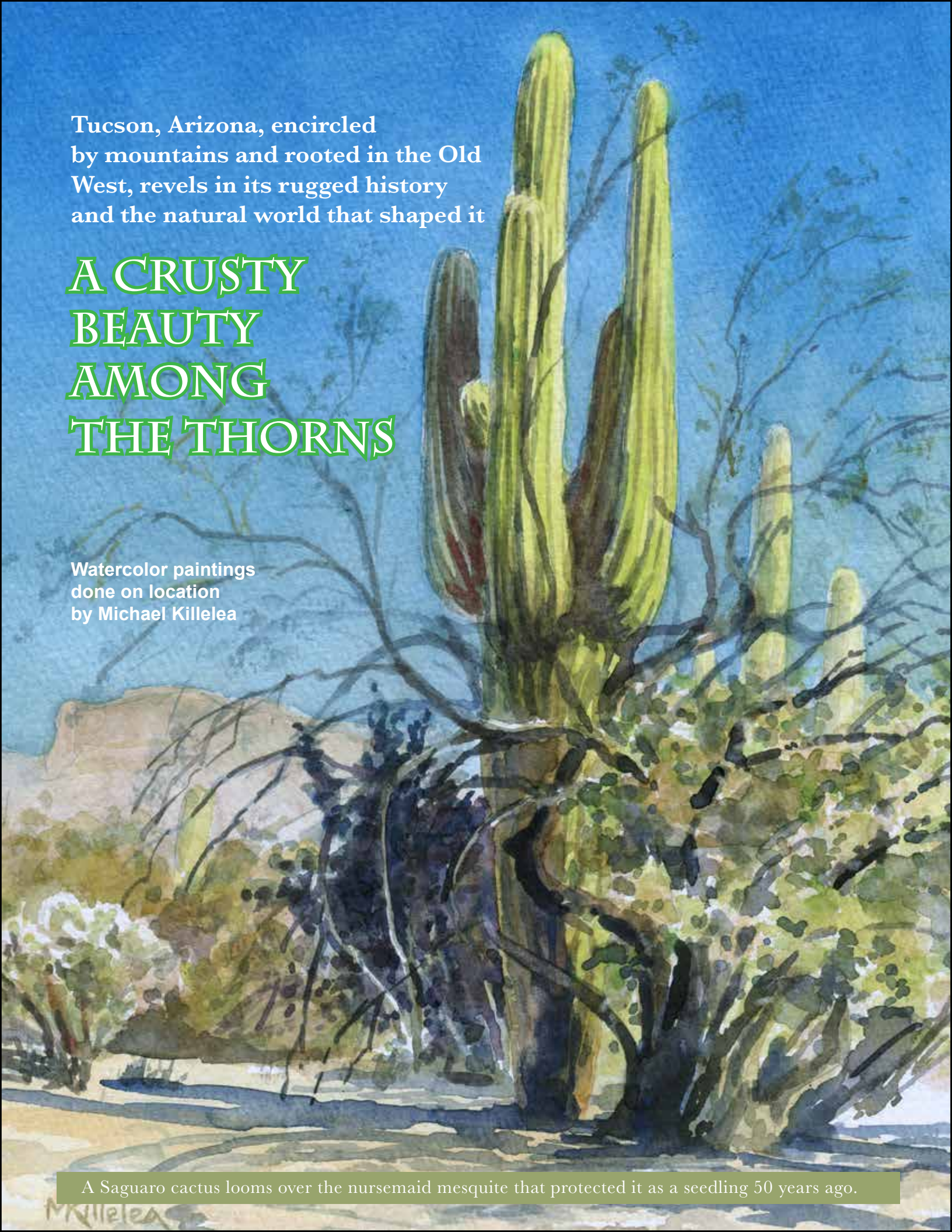


Tucson, Arizona, encircled
by mountains and rooted in the Old
West, revels in its rugged history
and the natural world that shaped it

A CRUSTY BEAUTY AMONG THE THORNS

Watercolor paintings
done on location
by Michael Killelea



A Saguaro cactus looms over the nursemaid mesquite that protected it as a seedling 50 years ago.

M. Killelea



In some ways, little has changed from the Old Southwest.

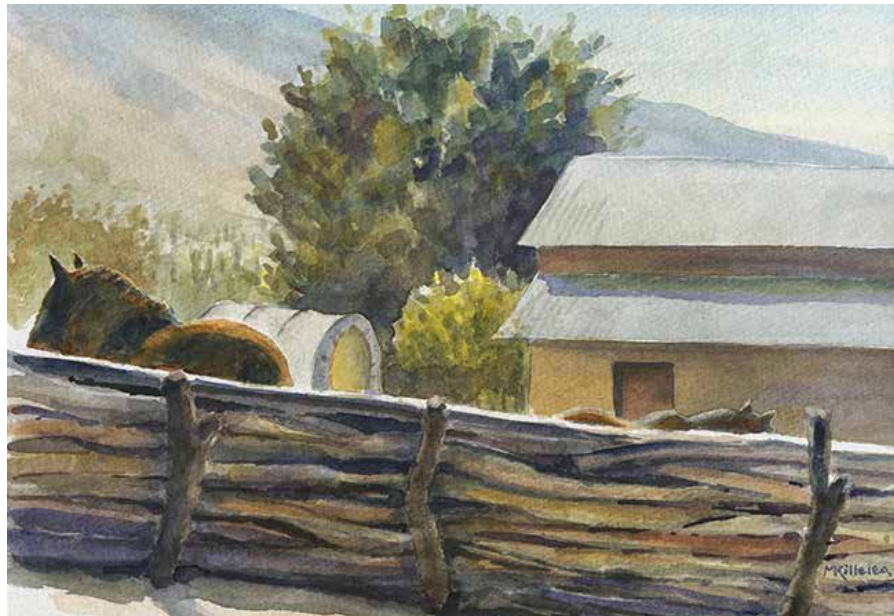
The desert remains constant, a place of solace for those who choose to be in it. While some of the wide open space and mountain slopes around Tucson show signs of increased development, there are still clear reminders of what it was like when the Wild West was wild.

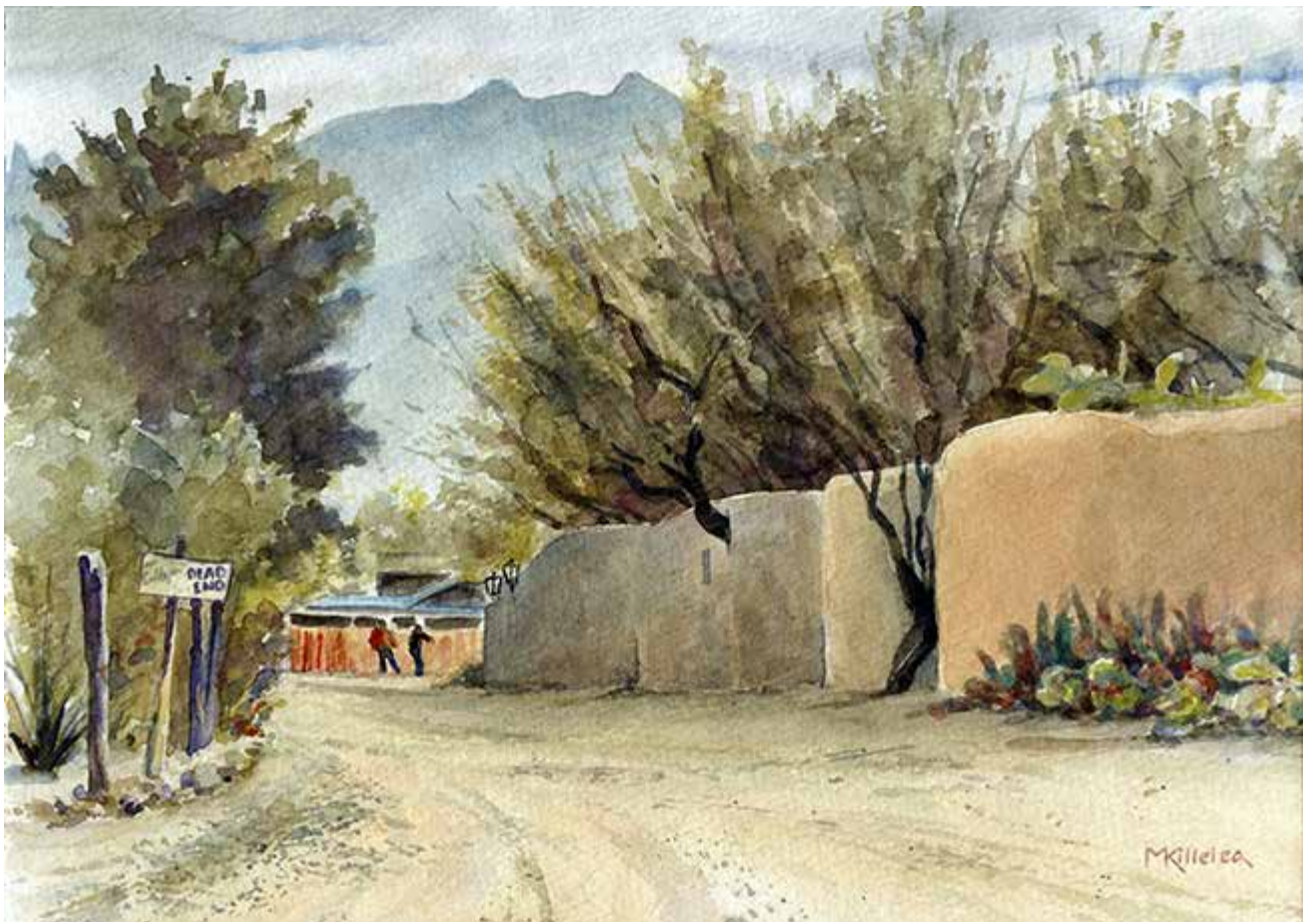
Above: The adobe mission at Degrazia Gallery in the Sun was built by artist Ettore DeGrazia in 1951 while he painted in a desert studio there.

Right: Horses in a corral at Tanque Verde Ranch wait stoically for vacationing dude riders of the purple sage.

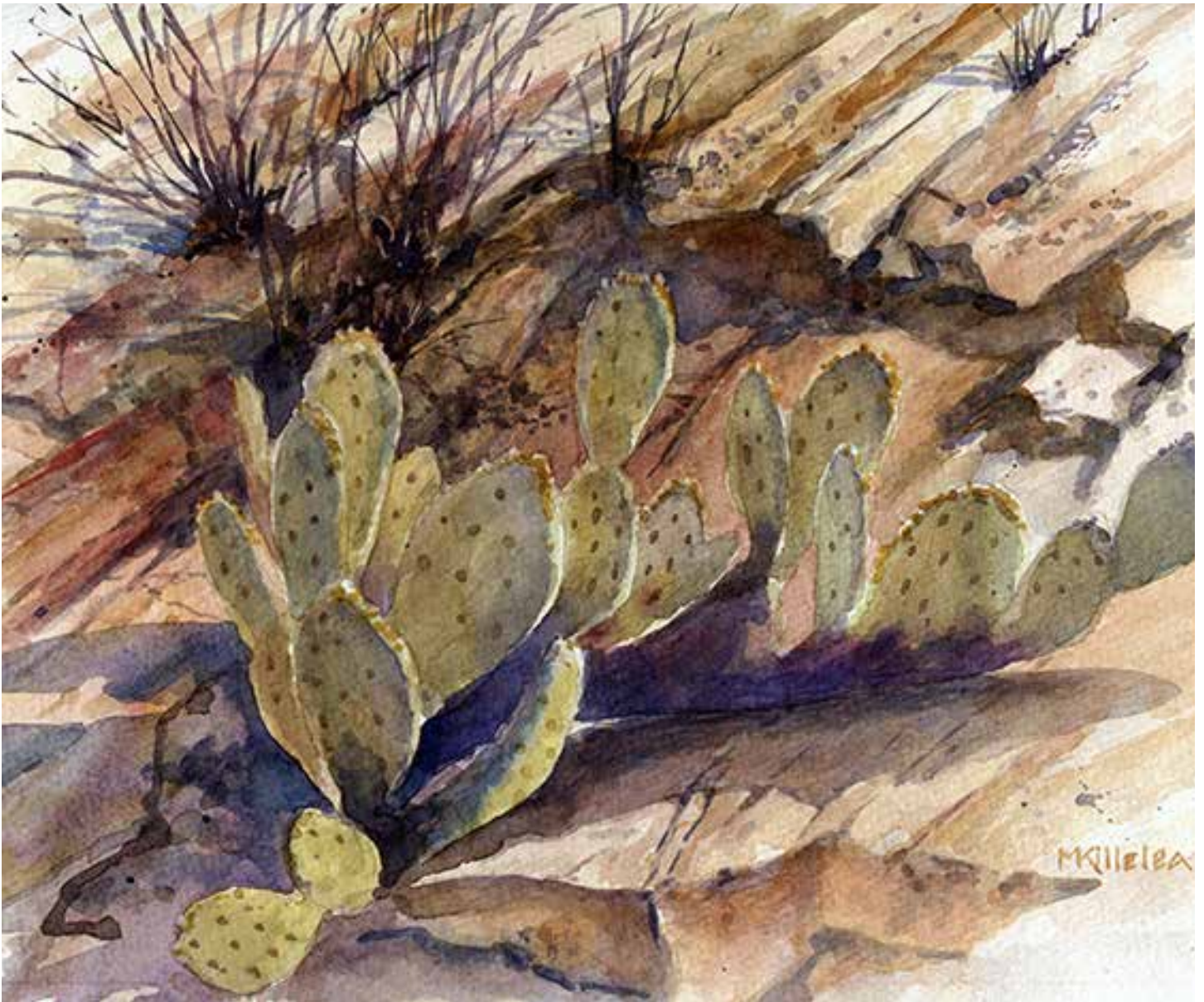
Below: A paddock near Sabino Canyon holds horses browsing in the afternoon shade.

Opposite: Ft. Lowell Day celebrates the army fort that supplied US troops during the Indian Wars. Army horses and reenactors drill for the public on the former fort's parade ground during festivities. In 1897 when the Army abandoned the fort, locals moved into the empty buildings, a neighborhood now called El Callejón.





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This prickly pear cactus reveals a testy beauty among the rocky ledges it calls home.

Mike Killelea loves painting outdoors in all seasons and all locations. His work can be seen on his website “www.killeleart.com” or on his Facebook page “Killeleart”, where a new painting is uploaded weekly.

