



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Peggy Immel

February 2016 Artist Member of the Month

What is your #1 tip or advice for the beginning plein air painter? My #1 tip is to paint as many paintings as you can. Each painting presents a series of problems to solve and the more times you solve those problems the better you will get at it. It's not the square footage of canvas that you cover. It's the number of paintings you turn out. So start with small paintings, 6x8 or 8x10 until you can paint faster. It's a better learning experience to paint four 6x8s than one 12x16.

What are your never-leave-home-without it "must have" palette colors? I work with a warm/cool primary palette to which I add transparent oxide red, Sap Green and white. My typical palette is Cad Red Medium & Alizarin Crimson Permanent for the reds, Cad Yellow Medium & Cad Lemon for the yellows, Ultramarine Blue & Cobalt Blue for the blues and Transparent Oxide Red, Sap Green and White. If forced to only take one of each primary I'd take Alizarin Crimson Permanent, Cad Yellow Medium, Ultramarine Blue and White.

Why do you choose to paint in the wild plein air rather than in the controlled environment of the studio? I just simply love the excitement of being outdoors right at the source of my inspiration. Painting in the studio with field studies and photos doesn't compare to painting on site. The sights, the sounds even the smells when painting en plein air add to the final result.

What was your most hair-raising extreme plein air painting experience? Luckily I haven't actually had any hair-raising experiences. At least not any that I can remember. However I have had some funny experiences. My most memorable one occurred when I was painting on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. It was a beautiful clear morning, the setting was breathtaking and I was deep into my painting when a bird flew over and pooped right on my palette. I thought with a smile, "Everybody is a critic!"

Living or not, which artists have had the most impact on your artistic journey? Gosh this is a difficult question....I guess the single artist that had the most impact would have to be Jack Pellew (John Pellew) who was my first painting teacher. I took a series of plein air classes from him at the Silvermine Arts Center in Connecticut. He did a demonstration, sometimes in oil, sometimes in watercolor, for each class, and then we would all do a painting. It was my introduction to plein air painting.

Closing comments....I love painting and am fortunate to be able to pursue the thing I love. It's provided me with the opportunity to meet many wonderful, interesting people and visit fantastic places. What a great way to see the world!