



## LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

### LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with John Burton February 2016 - Signature Member of the Month

***What is your #1 tip or advice for the beginning plein air painter?*** Set a goal of painting 100 paintings outside in the next year. They can be small (6x8) and don't spend all your time painting a painting you think will hang in a museum. Try to paint 4-6 every time you go out. You can do a few different views from every place you set up. Study color relationships and how to mix paint to match what you are observing in nature. If you follow this advice and paint 100 paintings in one year you will be a much greater painter than you ever dreamed.

***What are your never-leave-home-without-it "must have" palette colors?*** I guess only white. I believe you could give me any colors and I would vary them in a way to make a painting. At workshops in the past I would have the students pick my palette colors. I wanted to show that it is not the colors but the relationships that create the illusion of life and atmosphere. In fact I have joked with artists that my favorite 3 color limited palette is Cadmium Yellow, Lemon Yellow and Yellow Ochre.

***Why do you choose to paint in the wild plein air rather than in the controlled environment of the studio?*** I like to work both on location and in my studio. Painting outside is a time to learn how light works in nature. It is enjoyable for me because it is more like a sport. I am going out and reacting to what I am observing. My studio on the other hand is a laboratory and I am the mad scientist with a certain lunacy of paint. It is a great place to experiment and grow. It is more thoughtful and methodical similar to a chess match. Working outside is so important because that is the source of all the beautiful color harmonies. An artist who is only working from photographs or out of their head can never compete with the incredible harmonies God has created.

***What was your most hair-raising extreme plein air painting experience?*** I would say painting erupting volcanoes in South America would probably be high on the list.

***Living or not, which artists has had the most impact on your artistic journey?*** Joaquin Sorolla, Anders Zorn, Dean Cornwell, Huihan Lui, Bill Sanchez

***Closing comments....***Draw, Draw and Draw some more. In my years as an artist I find far too few people want to commit the time to draw well. If you really want to attain a higher level as an artist work on your drawing.