



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Anthony Salvo June 2016 Artist Member of the Month

What is your #1 tip or advice for the beginning plein air painter? Simplify shapes, Master your drawing skills, very important to a strong painting.

What are your never-leave-home-without it “must have” palette colors? My Palette colors are quite basic. Titanium White, Cobalt Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Cad Yellow Lemon Pure, Cad Yellow, Cad Red Light, Sap Green, and Alizarin Crimson. I do have some secret ocean colors. But those are my basic colors.

Why do you choose to paint in the wild plein air rather than in the controlled environment of the studio? I like painting Plein Air for many reasons. Love being outside in the fresh air. Painting the light is the key. Cannot seem to replicate the light and shadows and values as easily in the studio compared to being outside. I think it is because we have so little time before the light changes. I try to be a plein air “purist”, but that doesn’t happen in every piece. Also I do like painting in the studio (still life). Painting in the studio will help your Plein Air and vice a versa.

What was your most hair-raising extreme plein air painting experience? Well painting in the Desert, and feeling an earthquake was a tad hair-raising.

Living or not, which artists have had the most impact on your artistic journey? My first Plein Air workshop was with Ken Auster, I have to say his workshop really got my passion back for painting. I kept telling my self, you need to paint, but never was focused enough or made the time to do it, always too busy working and running my Graphic Design and Advertising business. I knew nothing of Plein Air, and once I was exposed to it I have been hooked ever since. He said everything I need to hear. I really think that was one of the catalysts that got me going in this direction. Even though my paintings were pretty bad in the beginning. I kept trying and painting and yes “brush miles” lots and lots of “brush miles”. My only regret was that I wish I had started painting Plein Air earlier in my life.

Closing comments....Plein Air is challenging and quite difficult to do, but as artist I think we need that challenge, if it were easy everyone would do it. It keeps us true. It makes us happy. And it is never boring.