



## LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

### LPAPA Plein Talks with Greg LaRock September 2016 Signature Member of the Month

***What is your #1 tip or advice for the beginning plein air painter?*** Make sure you have a solid understanding of value structure, good designs and good drawing abilities first. Everything else will fall into place along the way.

***What are your never-leave-home-without it “must have” palette colors?*** I use the same palette colors for every plein air painting, so I always bring them all!

***Why do you choose to paint in the wild plein air rather than in the controlled environment of the studio?*** The colors and values are exactly as you see them in plein air. The camera lens sees differently than your eyes. Plus I live near the beach in Southern CA. Who doesn't want to paint with their feet in the sand!

***What was your most hair-raising extreme plein air painting experience?*** Well it wasn't that extreme, but it was definitely different: I was painting down in Crystal Cove back up the beach next to the bluffs when a little ground squirrel dragged out a 3-foot gopher snake right next to my easel. They then began to battle with the little guy biting the snake near the tail and the snake striking at the squirrel. It all culminated with the snake grabbing the squirrel in a constrictor-like roll but couldn't catch hold. They then went there separate ways, but the snake was bleeding the little squirrel seemed the victor! This all happened two feet in front of my easel. I did capture some of it on video too!

***Living or not, which artists has had the most impact on your artistic journey?*** They all do! All painters and paintings say something. I try to be inspired by the good aspects and be reminded to avoid the not-so-good aspects!

***Closing comments....***If you're new at plein air painting ... keep at it and don't get too frustrated! If you're a seasoned vet at plein air painter ... keep at it and don't get too frustrated!