



## LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

### LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Patty McGeeney April 2016 Artist Member of the Month

***What is your #1 tip or advice for the beginning plein air painter?*** Slow down and observe more. Think about your design and simple masses.

***What are your never-leave-home-without it “must have” palette colors?***

One can accomplish a beautiful study with only burnt sienna (I use Rembrandt red iron oxide because it's transparent) and French ultramarine. You've got your warm and cool and they make a darkest value when combined. I do love Indian yellow though...and quinocridone red.

***Why do you choose to paint in the wild plein air rather than in the controlled environment of the studio?***

I actually see the two working environments supportive of each other. There are those who work strictly plein air to complete pieces. I like to take studies back and use them to work up larger pieces in my studio. However, painting outdoors for me has become integral for training my eyes to “see,” problem solve and keeping it “fresh.”

***What was your most hair-raising extreme plein air painting experience?***

Well, It would make for a better story if I said, “that bear that snuck up behind me!” Actually, forgetting my hat is a bummer, although not very hair raising.

***Living or not, which artists have had the most impact on your artistic journey?***

You know, there are so many artists whose work has had an impact on me, just too many to mention. I love California Impressionists, past and contemporary. When I was young and in art school, I was very smitten with Gustav Klimt (I still am) because his work was an amalgum of both realist skills and decorative elements. I thought his work, for his time, was quite fearless. Currently, I love Johanna Harmon's figurative work for its sensitivity and brushwork, Dennis Perrin's sense of light and shadow and I am fascinated by Eric Merrill's use of color.

***Closing comments....***I think it helps to be philosophical when one considers life

as an artist; it's about the journey, not destination. It's about growth, passion, and perspective. Being a painter defines in so many ways who I am and what I love in my life; sometimes it can be all consuming. I am lucky to be able to paint every day, so I try to take stock and enjoy other things in my life; to take a break, breathe and approach my work with a renewed enthusiasm.