Plein Talk Q&As with
LPAPA Founder & Signature Member Saim Caglayan
February 2017 Signature Member of the Month

What is your #1 tip or advice for the beginning plein air painter?
Drawing skills is the most essential element in all forms of art. I'd recommend classes in two D and 3 D drawing and figure drawing.

If you could only have 5 colors on your palette, what would they be?
Cadmium Red Light, Cadmium Yellow Light, Ultramarine Blue, Phthalo Green, Titanium White

Why do you choose to paint outside in the wild plein air rather than in the controlled environment of the studio?
In the great outdoors, beyond the benefit of direct experience of wondrous nature, one can see myriad of colors and experience the light's innumerable states, which give life to paintings. One can also achieve immediacy of brushwork that is difficult to do in the studio.

What was your most hair-raising extreme plein air painting experience?
Few months ago, I was painting on a steep cliff side above a river in northern California, got stung by a wasp on the hand that held my brush, it made me loose my footing and I came very close to falling off the cliff. Another was in Barcelona, Spain when three policemen tried to stop me and five painter friends from painting in a public plaza; there is a great YouTube video of this incident by Scott Burdick, "Just Say No to Art ".

Living or not, which artist(s) has had the most impact on your artistic journey?
Sorolla, Fechin, Sargent, Frank Benson, Degas, Bonnard, Gauguin, Armin Hanson, William Ritschel, Edgar Payne, Mary Cassatt, Kevin MacPherson, Ken Auster, Bato, Scott Burdick, Sherrie McGraw, Rodin, Isamu Noguchi, I can go on and on .

Any closing comments or advice you'd like to share?
Be true to yourself, do what you love, work hard, push yourself to the limit and never give up. There is more to life then making art, make and take time to experience life beyond just making art. Keep healthy, do everything in moderation. What is your's will come to you, but create the environment for its arrival.