



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with John Cosby April 2017 Signature Artist of the Month

What is your #1 tip or advice for the beginning plein air painter?

Get good solid instruction to leap over the natural hurdles in the way of every outdoor painter. With a solid skill set and an easel you can do much.

If you could only have 5 colors on your palette, what would they be?

White, Lemon Yellow, Cad Red Medium, Ultra Marine Blue, Cerulean Blue

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

We see the world around us in many different ways. Many think of our eyes as the portal to “Seeing” but we have other senses we use in more subtle ways. To paint from only a visual reference, like a photo, is to limit your interpretive powers to a narrow definition of “vision”. When you create a work of art from life you engage your sense of smell, hearing, vision and feeling as your experiential guides. The result is a more complete work of art that touches the viewer on a more soulful level.

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

While painting in urban environs having local boys circle you and check you out is something that has made me doubt my choice of subjects more times that I would care to remember.

Living or not, which artist(s) have had the most impact on your artistic journey?

My grandmother got me started so that was a big step on my Journey. I have many living Artists that made a big impression on my career, Joe Paquet, Mary Wythe, Don Demers, Gil Dillinger, Kevin Macpherson and Peter Adams, Kim English and Ray Roberts are just a few.

Closing comments and/or advice....

Many people can paint, few can teach you to paint. Choose your teacher wisely so that you can gain the skills to find your own voice. We all have a unique expression to give and learning to paint like someone else takes a long time to learn and even longer to cover up.