



## LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

### LPAPA Plein Talks Q&As with Andy Evansen March 2017 Artist Member of the Month

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

Work small, which forces you to simplify the subject. Also, the importance of value studies cannot be overstated. Having a clear idea of the big shapes and overall structure of the scene will allow you to work much faster and with more confidence.

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

Paynes Gray, Burnt Sienna, Cobalt Blue, Raw Sienna and Alizarin Crimson are the 5 colors I can't do without.

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

There is so much to be learned by spending a couple hours in front of your subject versus taking a quick snapshot and painting it months later in the studio. Good painting combines skill and emotional response, and that emotional response fades over time. Setting up in front of a scene while you're excited about it makes a huge difference.

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

I must be boring, because I don't have the extreme stories many others do. I've slid down a steep mountain with all my gear after losing my footing on Catalina Island, I remember panicking and thinking I was lost after wandering off alone in China, and I've had the standard run-ins with snakes, bad-intentioned dogs and the like. The worst thing I've seen happened to a friend of mine while we were painting in Puerto Rico, some of us had finished our paintings and were waiting on him to finish so we could grab lunch. When he started packing up, he reached into his backpack and a huge rat jumped out. Got a good laugh but if that had been me I'd have had the weebie-jeebies for a week.

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

John Singer Sargent serves as constant inspiration for me. His watercolors are the most amazing paintings I've ever seen in person. He also keeps me extremely humble; whenever I think I've started to get this painting thing figured out I look at his work and realize I'm not even close.

***Any closing comments or advice you'd like to share?***

I'm very fortunate to have met and become friends with so many talented artists on my journey. Seek out like-minded souls that can appreciate your challenges and provide a lift when you need it. And paint what inspires you, not what you think will sell.