



# LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

## LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Brienne Brown May 2017 Artist Member of the Month

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

One good tip is to pack light. Decide what is necessary and only bring that, not your whole studio. Also, it is best to have a plein air bag that is always packed and ready to go when you are. If you have to take time to pack your stuff before going out to paint, you are less likely to take the time. With a pack bag ready, you don't have that excuse.

***If you could only have 5 colors on your palette, what would they be?*** If I could only have 5 colors, I would have Ultramarine Blue, Alizarin Crimson, Transparent Red Oxide, Transparent Yellow Oxide, and Lavender. I might choose a different 5 for a different day, but these are my 5 favorite go to colors.

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

There is an excitement and energy in my plein air work that is hard to replicate in the studio. Each plein air painting reminds me of the smells, sounds, and the people I met while painting. In other words, each plein air painting is more than a painting, it is an experience. These experiences have helped my studio work as well. Working from a plein air painting or study is so much more helpful than working only from a photo.

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

I am not sure about "hair-raising" experiences, except in extreme high wind conditions where I am holding onto my easel and hoping I don't get blown away with my painting. However, I would say that the most extreme condition I painted in was a 9 degree day. My watercolor froze and I was painting with slush. This is really hard to do and I didn't know what the painting looked like until I took it home to dry and thaw. I have since learned that adding alcohol to the water helps....though if it is cold enough the paint still freezes on the paper.

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

John Singer Sargent, Edward Hopper, Andrew Wyeth, Alvaro Castagnet, Robert Wade, and Christopher Schink.

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

I first started painting en plein air in 2009 when an artist I admired told me, "If you want to get better, you have to get outside and paint". I took him at his word and started. It was scary. But as I consistently painted on location, my fears went away and were replaced by an addiction. I love it! It has definitely helped my work, both in and outside the studio. However, more importantly, I have found an activity that I love! So, if you have been thinking of trying it, don't let your fears get in the way. Get out there and start! Make a commitment to go outside and paint at least once a week if you can. If you do this, your work will improve! Happy Painting!