



# LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

## LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Ray Roberts June 2017 Signature Member of the Month

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

Paint small and fast! Sunsets in particular are very effective for learning; fleeting, warm colors. First premix light yellows, oranges, and reds. Then paint your lightest and brightest orangish color first and everything else darker making sure that you're truthful to your values.

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

Cad yellow, cad orange, cad red medium, ultramarine blue and titanium white

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

For me, paintings tend to get contrived in the studio. Outdoor sketches are my best source for color. Nothing beats first hand experience

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

Oblivious to the tide coming in, and as a newcomer to plein air, I was painting from on top of a large rock in Laguna. 'Well, I've waded through water before, just have to get off this rock'. Slipped, bloodied my nose and dropped my easel with the painting in 2 feet of water. When I pulled it up I saw that it was smeared, but, (and this was the best part) it had smeared perfectly. I couldn't have improved it anymore. Happy accidents do happen but do pay attention to the tide!

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

I rely heavily on my predecessors. These artists have helped me in all sorts of ways. In no particular order either as I look to them for understanding; Dixon, Payne, Ritshell, Sargent, Sorolla, Van Gogh, Klimt, Gaspard, Wyeth, Dunn, Armin Hansen, Hanson Puhoff, Timkov among others

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

The 3 most important keys to painting; design, design, and design! To get there, you'll need adequate drawing skills as the better you draw, the better you'll be able to execute a careful and thoughtful design. You'll also need to have skill in determining value relationships. Ultimately, design will be the key to success, but you'll need sharp drawing skills and a tuned-in sense of design.