



## LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

### LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Wendy Wirth June 2017 Artist Member of the Month

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

Find fellow artist friends through groups like LPAPA! Artists tend to be creative loners, and lose their passion when they're not sharing. It not only gets you out painting in inspiring locations, but gives you access to mentors, advice, and involvement for professional steps forward. These enduring friendships help you stay motivated to paint outdoors. I've made lifelong art friends by just having the courage to be involved. Get the best exposure possible to plein air painting from people actually doing it!

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

My palette is pretty limited as it is, with a cool and warm of each primary and a couple outsiders. It keeps your paintings harmonized. And never, ever use black, mix your own darkest value. But if I was on a deserted island? Ultramarine Blue, Yellow Ochre, Alizarin Crimson, Burnt Umber and Titanium White.

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

The eye sees so many different values and hues that a camera will not – and cannot – record, especially in the shadows. So it's much more inspiring to be there live and in person! And the best part is the emotional attachment it adds as you imprint the sounds, sights and mood of the scene you're painting into the work. Somehow, you transfer the spirit of it when you paint plein air.

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

It's that adrenaline rush as my confused mind snaps into "Save it!" mode after being too absorbed in painting to notice my surroundings. Namely, wave-saves and tripod-grabs. I've been known to look like Lady Liberty in the froth.

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

Thankfully, I had standout mentors early on that encouraged me as a child. As for contemporaries, definitely Ken Auster, an incredibly talented and articulate creative painter. He was my first painting workshop, and shared, "Paint with your MIND first!". Michael Obermeyer, Greg LaRock and Fred Hope were also very generous artistic souls that shared so much with me as I went professional. Historic greats like Corot, Sargent and William Wendt inspire always.

#### ***Closing comments and/or advice....***

Never waste your creativity, let it out! Why do you think it's called a *gift*?