



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk with Jeff Horn August 2017 Signature Member of the Month

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

Learn over time to simplify your composition. The most concise definition of composition I have heard was from Skip Whitcomb; "Five or fewer interesting shapes with one main focus". And, take a workshop with a painter whose work really speaks to you!

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

Ultramarine Blue Deep (Holbein usually) , Burnt Sienna (Winton, believe it or not), Viridian Green Hue (Holbein), Cadmium Yellow light, Alizarine Crimson (Permanent - Utrecht).... I assume white is a given?

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

I love being outdoors where I can paint with all my senses! I want to feel it as much as see it. The rhythms of nature, the connections, the edges, the transitions; that is where life is most on display. The photograph takes me away from much of the feeling and ,for sure, away from the color and composition as I perceive it.

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

Well, I could say when I was surveying a scene and set my paintbox on top of a rattlesnake. But that was not as hair-raising as becoming aware that there was a woman watching me struggle with a painting for several minutes who then said, " I take it, you don't make your living painting" I think I would rather have been bitten by the rattlesnake. Physical pain goes away. Emotional pain lingers. Painters can't be thin skinned and work outdoors.

Living or not, which artists have had the most impact on your artistic journey?

Sargent, Sorolla, Levitan, of course, but there are innumerable contemporary realist/impressionist artists whose work can move me every bit as much. The pure landscape paintings of James Reynolds for instance, who is most famous for his cowboy paintings, are absolutely unsurpassed in my opinion.

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

"Talent is good, Practice is better, Passion is best" - Frank Loyd Wright