



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talks Q&As with Mike Hernandez December 2017 Signature Artist Member of the Month

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

Keep it simple. Try to paint more smaller paintings within a given session rather than trying to paint one larger piece. It's all about the turn around. Try using an uncomfortably large brush and strive to simplify what you see by 40%.

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

I like using earth or warmer colors so Cadmium Yellow, Burnt Sienna, Alizarine Crimson, Ultramarine blue and burnt umber.

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

Nature is our best teacher for color and composition. We can see color hues simultaneously in nature because of its high key environment. These things get simplified in photos. It is also important to become fully immersed in the culture of the environment you paint in so that it may have an impression on your painting.

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

I went to paint at Cannon Beach Oregon and couldn't resist a secluded beach location so I wandered down a very steep cliff with my easel and painting gear. The cliff became muddy and slippery and I lost my footing several times. I almost took the expressway to doom but thankfully I was lucky.

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

I would have to say Edgar Payne, William Wendt, Franz Bischoff, Sargent, Bato Dugarzhapov, Ray Roberts and Matt Smith.

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

Be a true and honest painter. The viewer should always see "you" the artist first then the subject second in every painting that you do.