



## LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

### LPAPA Plein Talks Q&As with Paul Kratter January 2018 Signature Artist Member of the Month

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

Tip; DO YOUR THUMBNAIL SKETCHES! A much overlooked process to good painting.

***If you could only have 5 colors on your palette, what would they be?*** Five colors; I have a few special colors that I really like; Turner Yellow, Indian Yellow Orange, Alizarin Crimson, Cerulean Blue & Sap Green.

***Why do you choose to paint in the wild plein air rather than in the controlled environment of the studio?*** Plein Air painting is like a sport. You have to deal with changing light & sometimes pretty severe weather. It forces you to work fast, make quick decisions & paint with a ticking clock in your head. All that adds to a more spontaneous painting than you usually get in the studio.

***What was your most hair-raising extreme plein air painting experience?*** In 2015 the Granite Group, a handful of artists painting in the backcountry, were hiking out of Garnet Lake in the Eastern Sierras. It was our last day and we had just started out on a seven mile hike back to the pack station. We had taken a short cut down a steep trail when disaster struck. I slipped on a rock and put my left leg out to stop my fall. My leg locked, I fell and dislocated my kneecap! One of the artists had a satellite phone and put out an SOS. Some four hours later a helicopter and search & rescue showed up, but couldn't land because of the steep terrain. As the helicopter hovered, a rescuer was lowered down to me and stabilized my leg, then I was put in a basket and the group carried me across a creek to a point where the helicopter could raise me up, secure me to the side and flown to Mammoth hospital. I had surgery the next day and I have recovered fully.

***Living or not, which artist(s) has had the most impact on your artistic journey?*** Some of the most influential artists are Edgar Payne, Percy Gray & the wildlife artist Carl Rungius. Scott Christensen, Matt Smith & Bill Cone & are living artists I much admire.

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

Thanks to groups like LPAPA & the California Art Club for promoting traditional art and for providing shows, paint out, demos and other group events.