



# LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

## LPAPA Plein Talk with Ellen Howard July 2018 Artist Member of the Month

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

Be patient with yourself and enjoy the experience. Don't compare yourself with other artists; everyone is on their own artistic path. Get inspiration from artists you admire, but be confident in your own vision and goals. Set a goal of working on just one skill at a time, for example; composition, shapes, value, or color.

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

Titanium White, Cadmium yellow medium, Ultramarine Blue, Cadmium red light, and Alizarin Crimson

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

I love painting outside! You get to experience the whole environment; weather, light, and color. I have to make quicker decisions because the light is constantly changing and I find I get more expression in my brushwork because I have to work faster. I love being by the ocean and seeing the waves crash and having the spray hit my face. It is a very energizing experience for me and it is the only way that I can correctly see the colors and the light hitting my subject.

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

I painted on a cliff in Pescadero and the winds were very strong. I decided to pack up my gear and scaled down the cliff to the beach. The winds were not less down at beach level. I wedged myself into a crevasse of the rock and continued to paint. I was so excited by the power of the approaching storm that I finished the painting in record time. I let go of my easel and started to pack up my gear and the wind picked up and my easel went right into the sand. Not only did my painting get a lot of texture but all my paints were ruined and my paint brushes were a mess. The worst part was that I had to climb back up the cliff with all my gear to get back to my car-not an easy ascent!

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

One of my favorite artists is Monet. I love his work and the vibrancy of his colors. Some of the other artists I appreciate are Edgar Payne, E. Charlton Fortune, Eva Gonzales, Bertha Morisot and Guy Rose. There are so many contemporary artists that I admire: George Carlson, Jim McVicker, John Asaro, and Simon Addyman to name a few.

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

Enjoy the process and be open to new ideas and constructive feedback on your work. Take the time to be supportive of your fellow artists and get involved in your art community.