



# LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

## LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Rick J. Delanty July 2018 Signature Artist Member of the Month

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

Learn to draw—anything and everything! Take a sketchbook with you wherever you go. Countless drawings lead to instinctive approaches to design. Drawings become more economical as speed and confidence increase. This facility also inspires experimentation in painting: with line, value and color.

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

Cobalt blue, cadmium orange, cadmium yellow, burnt sienna or transparent red oxide, titanium white.

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

I do both, because plein air and studio painting are different vehicles for expressing my feelings and ideas about nature. “Plein air” inspires an immediate emotional response from the painter, because all the senses are engaged, and the light is constantly changing. I often paint in oils outdoors. In the studio, I am able to create a well-considered design in a consistent climate, and have more time to select a subject. My larger studio pieces are primarily painted in acrylic. I use photographs in the studio, but only for shape, not color. I use drawings or smaller plein air studies to determine value pattern and color.

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

In my very first competitive plein air event, I set up my easel for the first-day quick draw in the midst of 5-6 other painters. I started well, but a sudden gust of wind knocked my easel and painting over into the sand. Paint, medium, palette, and paper towels all sailed into the desert, with everyone watching. It wasn't really so extreme as plein air painting goes, but it WAS extremely embarrassing. As a result, all my plein air excursions are planned so they WON'T be “extreme!”

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

As a former arts educator for three decades, I researched the lives and work of artists continually. I am currently inspired daily by the works and lives of both historical and contemporary artists. Here are a few that inspire me:

*Drawing:* Painters of the Caves at Lascaux

*Value Pattern:* Rockwell Kent

*Abstraction:* James Whistler

*Design:* N.C. Wyeth

*Interpretation of Wilderness:* Neil Welliver

*Expression of Beauty:* John Burton

Ralph Vaughan Williams was not a painter, but an English composer—his music inspires me almost daily. He wrote my favorite piece of music: “Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis.” One of my goals as an artist is to have my paintings look the way Vaughan Williams music sounds.

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

**FINAL ADVICE:** Learning is life-long, and is a journey not a destination. Don't lose hope for improvement, and never give up. Consistent self-education and self-discipline are the keys to skill development, and the formation of a mature outlook that will result in a personal style and more meaningful images. As a member of LPAPA, one has access to learning of all kinds, through workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions, and the sharing of friendly artists. We can be grateful, and appreciate everything-- time is short.